

**Analysis and Application of  
Earned Value Management to the  
Naval Construction Force**

By

Richard D. Hayes, III

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PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
Division of Construction  
Engineering and Management  
School of Civil Engineering  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-1294

**Analysis and Application of  
Earned Value Management to the  
Naval Construction Force**

An Independent Research Study  
Presented to

The Faculty  
of  
The School of Civil Engineering  
Purdue University

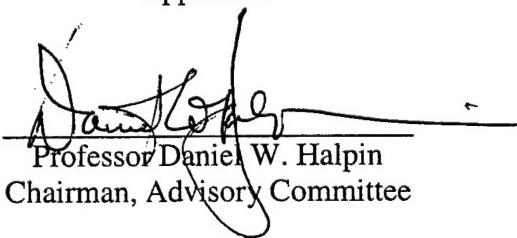
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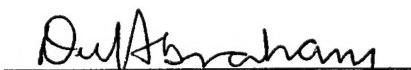
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Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Daniel W. Halpin  
Chairman, Advisory Committee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Dulcy M. Abraham  
Member, Advisory Committee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor David J. Harmelink  
Member, Advisory Committee

## *Abstract*

This paper investigates the application of Earned Value Methodology to Naval Construction Force (NCF) projects. Earned Value Management integrates technical performance, cost, and schedule goals into a comprehensive analysis tool. A guide to the elements, metrics, and steps required in implementing an Earned Value Management System is provided from an extensive literature review on the subject matter. Application to the Naval Construction Force is made through comparison with existing project management fundamentals and sample project analysis. While these existing fundamentals include some of the basics components of earned value analysis, a full utilization of the analysis and forecasting techniques afforded by the earned value approach is not in place. Conclusions and recommendations for future research are presented.

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## *List of Abbreviations and Symbols*

ACWP	Actual Cost of Work Performed
ANSI/EIA	American National Standards Institute/Electronic Industries Association
BAC	Budget at Completion
BCWP	Budgeted Cost of Work Performed
BCWS	Budgeted Cost of Work Scheduled
C/SCSC	Cost/Schedule Control Systems Criteria
C/SSR	Cost/Schedule Status Report
CAS	Construction Activity Summary
CEC	Civil Engineer Corp
CII	Construction Industry Institute
CPI	Cost Performance Index
CPM	Critical Path Method
CV	Cost Variance
CV%	Cost Variance Percent
DOD	Department of Defense
DSMC	Defense Systems Management College
EAC	Estimate at Completion
ETC	Estimate to Completion
EVM	Earned Value Management
EVMS	Earned Value Management System
LOE	Level of Effort
MD	Manday
NCB	Naval Construction Brigade
NCF	Naval Construction Force
NDIA	National Defense Industrial Association
NMCB	Naval Mobile Construction Battalion
OBS	Organization Breakdown Structure
PERT	Program Evaluation and Review Technique
PMB	Performance Measurement Baseline
PMI	Project Management Institute
SCI	Schedule Cost Index
SITREP	Situation Report
SPI	Schedule Performance Index
SV	Schedule Variance
SV%	Schedule Variance Percent
TCPI	To Complete Performance Index
VAC	Variance at Completion
VAC%	Variance at Completion Percent
WBS	Work Breakdown Structure

## 1. Introduction

“Earned Value Management is the use of an integrated management system that coordinates work scope, schedule, and cost goals and objectively measures progress toward these goals. Earned Value Management (EVM) emphasizes the planning and integration of a program’s technical performance, cost, and schedule, to support program manager’s decisions.” Figure 1.1 depicts this relationship:<sup>1</sup>

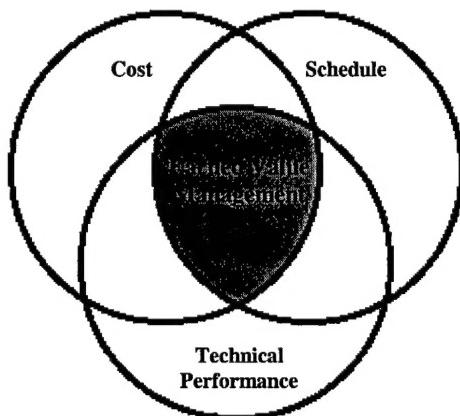


Figure 1.1 – Earned Value Management an Integrating Tool

EVM uses progress against previously defined work plans to forecast such important concerns as estimated completion costs, finish dates, and the effectiveness of corrective action plans. Earned value is the measurement of what was physically received for what was actually spent, or the value of work accomplished.

The concept of earned value has gone by various titles including industrial factory standards, earned value management, performance measurement, the Cost/Schedule Control Systems Criteria (C/SCSC), as well as Program Evaluation and Review Technique (PERT). Regardless of the term used, the focus of earned value has been consistent: “the accurate measurement of ‘work in progress’ against a detailed plan to indicate what will happen to work on the project in the future.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Defense Systems Management College (DSMC), 2001, p.3

<sup>2</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p.13

## **1.1 Research Objective**

The primary objective of this paper is to assemble, organize, and assess the applicability of Earned Value Management to the project management techniques used by the Naval Construction Force. To achieve this objective, the following questions will be addressed:

1. ***What is Earned Value Management?*** Although much has been written concerning this subject, this paper will attempt to distill the published information into a concise description of the techniques and methodology that can be used in applying this concept.
2. ***What steps are necessary to implement earned value analysis?*** From the definition of Earned Value Management that will be provided, a broad overview of the steps necessary to begin analyzing earned value data will be provided.
3. ***Are there metrics or tools from earned value analysis that can be applied to Naval Construction Force project management?*** Finally, this paper will analyze the results of an application of earned value metrics to actual Naval Mobile Construction Battalion projects.

## **1.2 Research Methodology**

To achieve the objectives of this research, a comprehensive literature review was conducted on the topic of Earned Value Management and how to best implement it. Next an application of the concept was made utilizing current Naval Mobile Construction Battalion projects was conducted in order to test the validity of the researched performance metrics. Conclusions and recommendations for future research were developed from this analysis and from personnel experiences.

## **1.3 Research Organization**

This research paper is organized into six chapters that will move the reader from an introduction of earned value management and the processes involved with establishing this

analysis tool, to how it can be utilized by the Naval Construction Force. Projects from two Naval Mobile Construction Battalions will be utilized to highlight the analysis possibilities that could be realized. Finally, the research wraps up with conclusions and recommendations for future research.

Chapter 1 is an introduction to the subject of Earned Value Management and the objectives of this paper. Chapter 2 details the evolution of Earned Value Management and the basic elements involved in analyzing its data. Chapter 3 builds on the concepts presented and outlines the steps required in implementing an Earned Value Management System. This chapter also presents performance measurement tools for calculating and analyzing project data. In Chapter 4, the focus shifts to the Naval Construction Force and its project management fundamentals. Comparisons are made with these techniques and the earned value approach. In Chapter 5, a practical application of the methodology identified in this paper is presented and reviewed along with challenges that could impede the full implementation of the earned value approach. Finally, Chapter 6 concludes the paper and recommends areas for future research.

## **2. What is Earned Value Management?**

This chapter presents the evolution of Earned Value Management along with an introduction to its key elements and concepts. It summarizes the findings of a literature review on how this management philosophy is described in books, journal articles, papers, and on the Internet.

### **2.1 Origin and Evolution**

Although it has only been of late that the earned value concept has truly gained in prominence, it is a concept conceived by industrial engineers who worked in American factories over a century ago. By converting “planned industry standards” into “earned standards” and then relating them against “actual hours” these engineers began to focus on true cost performance.<sup>3</sup> This distinction forms the basis of earned value management.

The driving force behind the evolution of this technique has been the United States Department of Defense (DOD). In 1958, the U.S. Navy first introduced the Program Evaluation and Review Technique (PERT) as a network-scheduling device for the Polaris Weapons System.<sup>4</sup> By 1962, PERT incorporated resources into its network analysis thereby managing both time and cost.<sup>5</sup> Due to a combination of insufficient computer resources, complexity, and rigorous implementation requirements PERT was essentially abandoned as a management tool by the mid-1960s.<sup>6</sup> However, the significance of PERT was not its technique, but that it used earned value data to monitor the true cost performance during the life of a project.

Realizing the usefulness of earned value data, the U.S. Air Force implemented the first true earned value management approach as part of their Minuteman Program in 1963.<sup>7</sup> One key difference between this approach and the previous PERT techniques was that the Air Force compiled thirty-five criteria defining the minimum requirements of an acceptable project management system. This innovation gave each contractor the flexibility to tailor its individual

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<sup>3</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1994, p. 24

<sup>4</sup> Department of the Navy (DON), 1958.

<sup>5</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1997, p. 13

<sup>6</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 27

<sup>7</sup> Abba, 1997, p. 59.

system in order to meet contract requirements. Finally, in 1967, the DOD formally issued what was called Cost/Schedule Control Systems Criteria (C/SCSC) as part of DOD Instruction 7000.2.<sup>8</sup>

During the next three decades, significant knowledge was gained regarding the earned value concept using the C/SCSC. Unfortunately, the concepts of earned value remained largely restricted to the acquisition of major systems by the government and were not fully embraced by private industry.<sup>9</sup> By 1994, earned value was being described as one of the most underutilized cost management tools available to project managers.<sup>10</sup> Some of the reasons for this lack of use were excessive checklists and paperwork, specialist acronyms, and rising administrative costs due to over-implementation of the C/SCSC criteria.<sup>11</sup> Some viewed the earned value methodology as excessive “bean counting”,<sup>12</sup> a stance resulting from bureaucratic interpretations of the C/SCSC criteria that were slowly increasing the burden on contractor’s management systems. With concern rising amongst both private industry contractors and the DOD, the earned value concept was ready for reform.

In order to take Earned Value Management techniques beyond a government mandate, both private industry and the U.S. government strived to make it more user-friendly. In addition to being simpler to use, both parties wanted to make the criteria more compatible with the needs of private industry. As part of a National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) initiative, private industry took a proactive role in reengineering the original 35 C/SCSC into the Earned Value Management System criteria, which consisted of 32 straightforward guidelines.<sup>13</sup>

In 1997, these 32 criteria were accepted by the DOD and incorporated as part of DOD Instruction 5000.2R.<sup>14</sup> However, in the course of modifying the criteria, two significant shifts occurred. First, it came to be identified more as a project management technique vice a financial management one. Second, the ownership of earned value transferred from the DOD to

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<sup>8</sup> Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 7000.2

<sup>9</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p.30

<sup>10</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1994, p. 21

<sup>11</sup> Antvik, 1998

<sup>12</sup> Abba, 1997, p.61

<sup>13</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1999, p.1

<sup>14</sup> DODI 5000.2R

private industry. To solidify these changes, the Earned Value Management System was adopted as American National Standards Institute (ANSI/EIA) Standard #748 in July 1998.<sup>15</sup>

Today, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Sweden have all expressed interest in cooperating with the U.S. in making the concept of earned value a worldwide project management technique. Abba summarizes the evolution and future of earned value management as:

Nearly 30 years after being introduced as DOD policy, earned value management is seen as a significant reform activity. For people involved in earned value, whether in government, industry, academia, or consulting, these are exciting times. A good idea from three decades ago has been reinvented as a valuable and fundamental tool.<sup>16</sup>

The viability of earned value management has been tested, improved, and adopted by both the Government and private industry. With increasing emphasis and widespread use, it truly is a technique that project managers everywhere can use.<sup>17</sup>

## **2.2 Traditional Cost Management vs. Earned Value**

In describing earned value, it is probably best to first compare it with a more customary cost management technique. Under what Fleming and Koppelman describe as traditional cost management, a two-dimensional approach is employed: the simple relation of planned costs to the actual costs as shown in Figure 2.1.<sup>18</sup> Using this approach, it is difficult if not impossible to determine the true cost performance, since a comparison between the budgeted plan and actual costs can be faulty and misleading.<sup>19</sup>

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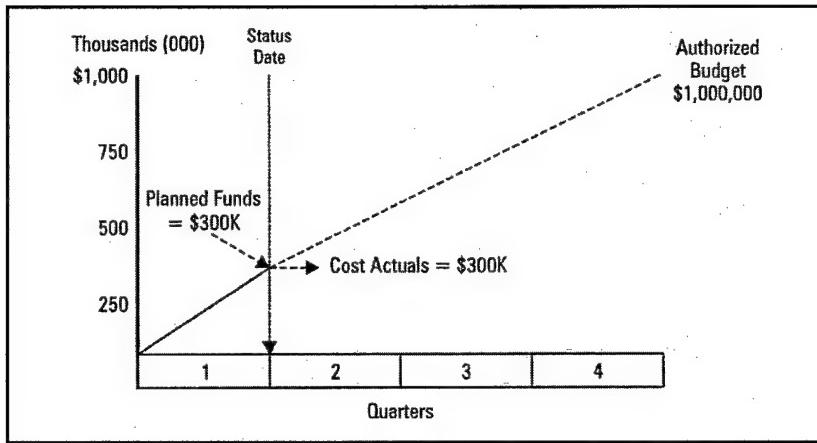
<sup>15</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 32

<sup>16</sup> Abba, 1997, pg. 61

<sup>17</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 32

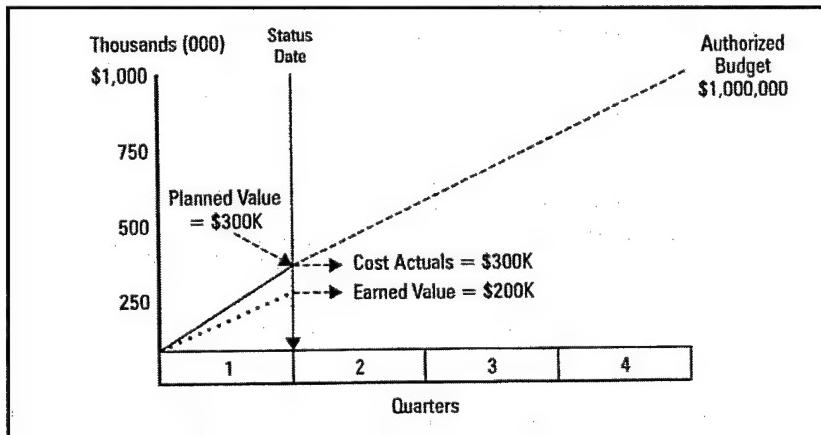
<sup>18</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1994, p. 22

<sup>19</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 18



**Figure 2.1 – Traditional Cost Management: Plan versus Actual Costs<sup>20</sup>**

In contrast, earned value project management adds a third dimension: the amount of work accomplished or the value of the work performed.<sup>21</sup> With this third dimension, a project manager has a better measure of “what they got for what they paid.” By comparing the earned value to the planned cost for a given period, the project manager can now identify whether the project is ahead or behind schedule. Similarly, by comparing the earned value to the actual costs expended during a given period, a determination of whether the project is underrunning or overrunning its budget can be made.<sup>22</sup> See Figure 2.2 below for an illustration of this concept.



**Figure 2.2 – Earned Value Project Management: Three Dimensional<sup>23</sup>**

<sup>20</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 18

<sup>21</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1994, p. 22

<sup>22</sup> Christensen, 1994, p. 30

<sup>23</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 19

## **2.3 Elements of Earned Value**

With the introduction of earned value data, the three primary elements for deriving performance in earned value project management can be defined. The three elements are:

1. Planned Value → Budgeted Cost for Work Scheduled, (BCWS)
2. Actual Costs → Actual Cost of Work Performed, (ACWP)
3. Earned Value → Budgeted Cost of Work Performed, (BCWP)<sup>24</sup>

### **2.3.1 Budgeted Cost of Work Scheduled**

The BCWS, or “Planned Value”, is the sum of the budgets, usually expressed in dollars or man-hours, for all planned work scheduled to be accomplished within a given period.<sup>25</sup> One common method to develop BCWS is to use a computerized scheduling system and apply budget estimates to individual schedule activities. Based on the time when the activities are scheduled to occur, the application produces a histogram and/or a curve that displays the summation of the activity budgets for the work scope in predetermined time periods.<sup>26</sup> When calculating the BCWS two additional parameters to review are Performance Measurement Baseline and Budget at Completion.

#### **2.3.1.1 *Performance Measurement Baseline***

The *Earned Value Management Implementation Guide* defines the Performance Measurement Baseline (PMB) as, “The time-phased budget plan against which contract performance is measured.”<sup>27</sup> It is the sum of all activities’ BCWS for each time period, calculated for the total project duration. When graphed, the PMB forms the familiar S-curve for planned work. It is important to note that the BCWS is a segment of the PMB and as such represents all the tasks scheduled for accomplishment within a given period.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Christensen, 1999, p. 284

<sup>25</sup> PMI, 1996, p. 160

<sup>26</sup> Short, 1993, p. 36

<sup>27</sup> DOD, 1996, p. 10

<sup>28</sup> DOD, 1996, p. 10

### **2.3.1.2 Budget at Completion**

Budget at Completion (BAC) is the cumulative sum for all Budgeted Costs of Work Scheduled and represents the original estimate of the cost for a project.<sup>29</sup> It denotes the endpoint of the time-phased PMB curve.

### **2.3.2 Budgeted Cost of Work Performed**

The *Earned Value Management Glossary* defines BCWP, commonly referred to as the “Earned Value”, as “the sum of the approved budgets, usually in terms of dollars or man-hours, for activities or portions of activities completed during a given period.”<sup>30</sup> The various methods for calculating earned value are discussed in the next section of this paper.

### **2.3.3 Actual Cost of Work Performed**

The ACWP are the costs, usually in terms of dollars or man-hours, actually incurred and recorded for accomplishing the tasks performed on a project within a given time period.<sup>31</sup> As such, it is representative of all accrued expenditures incurred in completing the work.<sup>32</sup> This includes charges for goods and services received and other assets acquired, such as invoices for work, material delivered, progress payments and fees/profit allocable to the contract.<sup>33</sup>

## **2.4 Summary**

In this chapter, the history and evolution of Earned Value Management was outlined with comparisons made with traditional cost management. With earned value management, a key third element is introduced, namely the “earned value” for the work performed. From the definitions provided for the basic elements, a further look at the steps to establishing a management system based on these elements can be made.

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<sup>29</sup> Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), 1998, p. 39-26c

<sup>30</sup> EVM Homepage: Glossary, p.1

<sup>31</sup> AFMC, 1998, p. 39-26a

<sup>32</sup> PMI, 1996, p. 108

<sup>33</sup> Valkenhoff, 1981, p. 222

### **3. Establishing an Earned Value Management System**

With an understanding of the basic elements in place, the process of initiating an Earned Value Management System (EVMS) can be discussed. As previously mentioned, 32 criteria have been internationally accepted for use in establishing an EVMS. These criteria are expressed in fundamental terms and provide contractors the flexibility to optimize their management system while remaining fully accountable for its effectiveness.<sup>34</sup> The guidelines are structured in five areas common to a contractor's management processes:<sup>35</sup>

- Organization
- Planning, Scheduling, and Budgeting
- Revisions
- Accounting
- Analysis

Each of the criteria addresses a principle necessary for effective management of a project. "For example, one criterion requires that each element of work on the project have a schedule. Another requires that each element of work on the project have a budget. A sufficient management control system that promotes proper planning and integration of work on a project is vital to the effective use of EVM."<sup>36</sup>

The entire set of 32 criteria that have been adopted can be found in Appendix A. However, this research paper will not review and analyze each criteria, instead it will focus on a broader overall view of the major categories to describe the implementation process. It is the author's belief that this will provide the reader with a simpler understanding of the steps required.

#### **3.1 Organization**

The project manager's ability to define and control a project's full scope of the work is a key element to its success.<sup>37</sup> The scope of a project, however, can be different amongst the various parties involved. While all might agree on what the outcome should be, each

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<sup>34</sup> DOD, 1996, p.4

<sup>35</sup> DODI 5000.2R

<sup>36</sup> Delaney, 2000, p3

individual's specific involvement varies with the nature of the work they are to perform. A subcontractor, for example, understands his scope of work in a much narrower degree of detail than the prime contractor does. As scope is defined, it is important that all involved have a clear understanding of the tasks necessary to complete the project.

"When there is poor scope definition, final project costs can be expected to be higher because of the inevitable changes which disrupt project rhythm, cause rework, increase project time, and lower the productivity and morale of the workforce."<sup>38</sup> If the scope of work is not defined accurately or communicated to all involved, then the outcome of the project will not be as expected. Consequently, with no baseline against which the scope can be measured, it is not possible to distinguish scope changes from project development.<sup>39</sup> Plainly put, without a well-defined scope of work, one cannot distinguish between agreed upon work and any additional work that may arise. Therefore, it is essential to properly define the projects total scope of work in order to establish a baseline against which to utilize earned value analysis.<sup>40</sup>

### 3.1.1 Work Breakdown Structure

During the 1960's, the momentum to develop a tool to help project managers define a project in a cohesive way gave rise to the development of the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS).<sup>41</sup> John Mansuy's article "Work Breakdown Structure: A Simple Tool for Complex Structures" offers the following:

"A Work Breakdown Structure is a tool that helps you plan, organize, and control any project. In this age of complex management techniques, it is often overlooked because of its simplicity. Yet, this simplicity makes the WBS a powerful project management tool that can be used with little financial or personnel resources."<sup>42</sup>

While a Statement of Work defines the overall requirements for a project, the WBS provides the basic framework for identifying each element of the project in increasing levels of detail. The *Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge* defines a WBS as:

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<sup>37</sup> PMI, 1996, p.52

<sup>38</sup> CII, 1986, p.45

<sup>39</sup> Kraus, 1992

<sup>40</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1994, pp. 22-24

<sup>41</sup> DSMC, 2000, p. 3-8

<sup>42</sup> Mansuy, 1991, p. 15

"A task-oriented "family tree" of activities, which organizes, defines and graphically displays the total work to be accomplished in order to achieve the final objectives of a project. Each descending level represents an increasingly detailed definition of the project objectives."<sup>43</sup>

Breaking the project down into manageable work elements allows these elements to be used throughout the project for planning, scheduling, budgeting, performance evaluation, and most importantly, for earned value analysis. See Figure 3.1 for an example WBS.

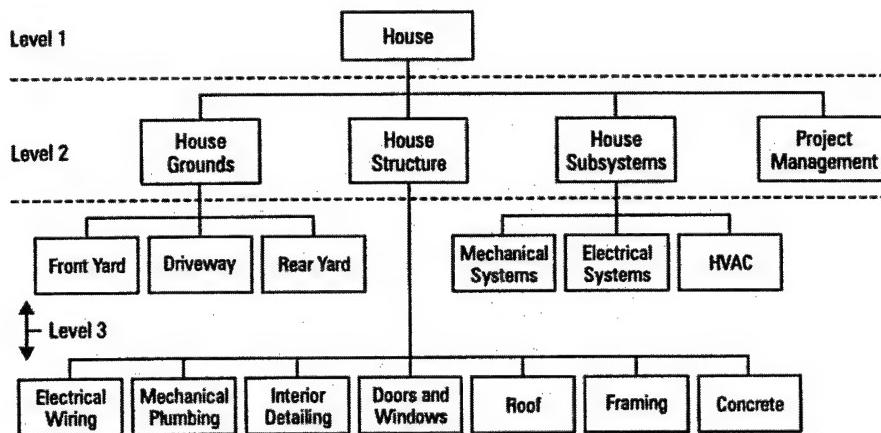


Figure 3.1 – Work Breakdown Structure<sup>44</sup>

### 3.1.2 Organization Breakdown Structure

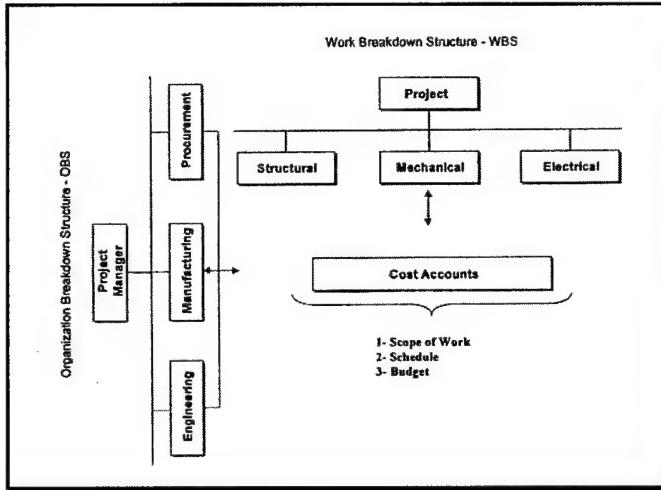
An essential component of the earned value concept is that responsibility be assigned for each element of the WBS.<sup>45</sup> To facilitate this, an Organization Breakdown Structure (OBS) is used. The OBS defines the organizational elements responsible for performance of the project work. It is a hierarchical depiction of the management organization required to perform the work outlined on the Work Breakdown Structure.<sup>46</sup> In essence, the OBS should reflect the way in which a contractor has organized the people who will accomplish the work. The interrelation of the WBS and OBS is shown in Figure 3.2 on the following page.

<sup>43</sup> PMI, 1987

<sup>44</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 55

<sup>45</sup> Wilkens, 1997, p.5

<sup>46</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 201



**Figure 3.2 – Interrelation of WBS and OBS**

### 3.1.3 Control Accounts

At the intersection of the WBS and the OBS, where responsibility has been established for work activities, one can find the control account (also known as the cost account in C/SCSC criteria). This resulting intersection creates a performance measurement unit that combines the schedule, cost, and technical aspects of the project.<sup>47</sup> Department of Defense Instruction 5000.2R defines the control account as,

“A management control point at which actual costs may be accumulated and compared to the budgeted cost of work performed. A control account is a natural control point for cost and schedule planning and control, because it represents the work assigned to one responsible organizational element on one work breakdown structure element.”<sup>48</sup>

Control accounts provide a correlation between the amount of work that is planned and the resources available to accomplish that work. Each control account generally contains three pieces of information: the scope of work for the associated WBS element, its schedule, and its budgeted cost.<sup>49</sup> The development of these components will be discussed in the next section.

<sup>47</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996 p. 115

<sup>48</sup> DODI 5000.2R

<sup>49</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1995, p. 40

## **3.2 Planning, Scheduling, and Budgeting**

Following organization, the next step incorporates the planning of project activities within the control accounts, logically sequencing them into a project schedule, and then assigning an estimated budget to that activity.

### **3.2.1 Planning and Scheduling of Work Packages**

Work packages are defined as natural subdivisions of a control account that represent a particular job assignment or work activity. Work packages also represent the basic building blocks used in planning, controlling, and measuring project performance.<sup>50</sup> As outlined in the *Earned Value Management Implementation Guide*, a work package should have the following characteristics:

- It represents units of work at levels where work is performed.
- It is clearly distinguished from all other work packages.
- It is assignable to a single organizational element.
- It has scheduled start and completion dates and, as applicable, interim milestones, all of which are representative of physical accomplishment.
- It has a budget or assigned value expressed in terms of dollars, man-hours, or other measurable units.
- Its duration is limited to a relatively short span of time or it is subdivided by discrete value milestones to facilitate the objective measurement of work performed.
- It is integrated with detailed engineering, manufacturing, or other schedules.<sup>51</sup>

Since the work package is the lowest level at which performance data is normally analyzed, it is important to balance its duration and scope against the length of the reporting cycle. When longer duration work packages are used, it is harder to determine status due to the volume of work involved. On the other hand, when work packages are defined at too low a level of detail, the administrative burden involved with tracking the work can be excessive.

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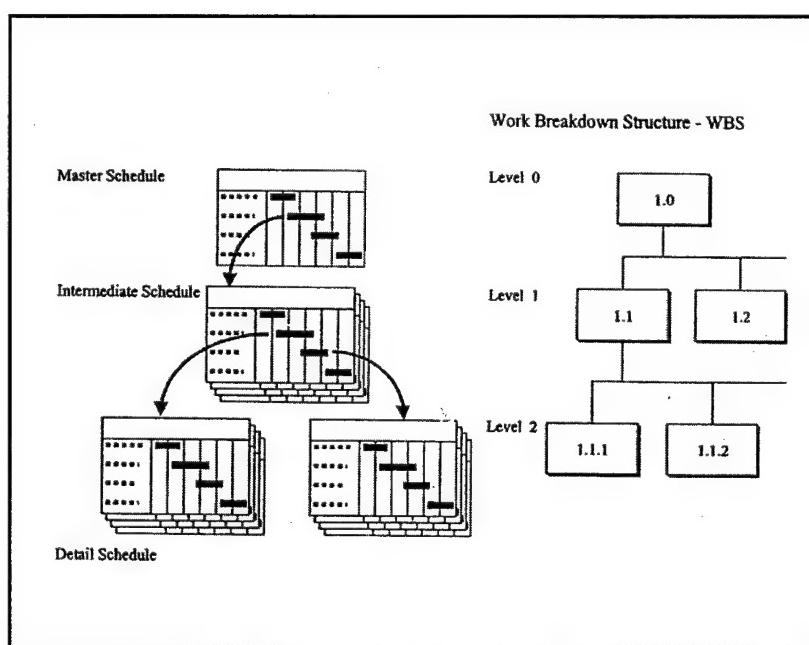
<sup>50</sup> PMI, 1996, p. 61

<sup>51</sup> DOD, 1996, p.11

Finally, for each work package, the milestones, technical performance goals, or other indicators that will be used to measure performance should be identified in the initial planning phase.<sup>52</sup>

### 3.2.2 Scheduling

It is essential that a project employing the earned value concept have at a minimum a master project schedule, thereby establishing a baseline against which future performance can be compared.<sup>53</sup> The master schedule and any subordinate schedules for a project should be related to the work levels identified by the WBS, as shown in Figure 3.3. Although any scheduling technique will work, a critical path method (CPM) is generally utilized.<sup>54</sup> With the time-phased sequencing that the CPM affords, the budgeted value for each planned work package can be aligned to establish the performance measurement baseline. With any project, there will always be a tradeoff between cost, schedule, and performance. “The best schedule supports the best tradeoff between these competing demands, taking into account the risks that are associated with each tradeoff and the impact on the overall program.”<sup>55</sup>



**Figure 3.3 – Relation of Schedule to Work Breakdown Structure<sup>56</sup>**

<sup>52</sup> AFMC, 1998, p. 39-6d

<sup>53</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 67.

<sup>54</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 67.

<sup>55</sup> DSMC, 2000, p. 3-13

<sup>56</sup> Dua, 1997, p. 6

### **3.2.3 Estimate and Budget Project Resources**

After planning and scheduling the activities necessary to complete the project, the next step is to establish a budget the work. In order to develop a budget, one must forecast what resources the project will require, the required quantities, when they will be needed, and how much they will cost.<sup>57</sup> Depending on the resources to be tracked, the budget can be expressed in any monetary, labor, or other measurable unit. Planning and budgeting can be done at both the summary and at the detail level. Therefore, two different strategies exist for generating a budget: top-down and bottoms-up methods.

In the top-down method, budgets are initially set at a higher level and then broken down into budget estimates for specific tasks and work packages. This process continues until the project is broken down to the lowest level work package.<sup>58</sup> However, according to Fleming and Koppelman, "...the project baseline needs to be created from detailed bottoms-up planning."<sup>59</sup>

In the bottoms-up method, the schedules and budgets for individual WBS elements are constructed thereby creating a more accurate budget when compared to the top-down method. These resulting budgets are collected, or "rolled up", to establish the final budget for the project.<sup>60</sup>

### **3.2.4 Establish Baseline**

One of the key factors in utilizing Earned Value Management is the creation of a performance baseline. When a project is in process, costs are incurred due to the consumption of resources related to the completion of work. To determine how well the project is doing, a comparison against the original plan is required. Having planned the work packages with respect to time and budget, a baseline can be created as the basis for this comparison. As previously identified, this time phased budget plan is known as the performance measurement baseline.

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<sup>57</sup> Meredith, 1995, p.289

<sup>58</sup> Meredith, 1995, p. 292

<sup>59</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p.75

<sup>60</sup> Meredith, 1995, p. 292

### **3.3 Revisions**

Although the scope of work and the work breakdown structure for a project may be well defined, it is rare that the baseline at the end of the project will be the same as at the beginning. There are many factors encountered throughout construction of a project that can affect this baseline. A typical cause of a necessity to revise the baseline is a change to the scope of work. It is essential that changes to the baseline be documented and controlled in order to distinguish between the original and new work if the need should arise.<sup>61</sup>

### **3.4 Accounting**

The incorporation of actual cost data into an Earned Value Management System is referred to as accounting. The primary concern with the accounting aspect of the earned value concept is the accumulation and reporting of costs accurately.<sup>62</sup> Costs on a project can be incurred through labor, material, equipment, subcontracts and other direct or indirect costs. In preparation for analysis, costs must be correctly applied to the proper work packages to facilitate summarization by both the WBS and OBS.<sup>63</sup>

### **3.5 Analysis**

The last phase of Earned Value Management is to monitor performance against the baseline for the duration of the project. To monitor this progress, variances and indices should be calculated and analyzed by management. Periodically, a forecast of the final costs, the efficiency required to achieve these costs, and an estimated completion date should be made and compared with project goals. By interpreting the results of this analysis and the forecasts, management action may be necessary in order to keep the project's final cost and schedule within desired goals.

As defined earlier, the key elements of earned value, namely BCWS, BCWP, and ACWP, are determined for each task and a comparison of these elements provides a measure of schedule and cost performance. These measurements must be treated with caution, however, as

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<sup>61</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 109

<sup>62</sup> DSMC, 2001, p. 55

they are only indicators of the efficiency or performance of a project. Therefore, they should only be used as one of the many factors on which project managers base their decisions, and then only after interpreting all pertinent information.

When analyzed properly, performance measures indicate where shortfalls are occurring and where extra resources, management action, or other support is required in order to overcome the problem. In addition, they can also simultaneously foreshadow what may happen to a project if such remedial actions are not taken.<sup>64</sup>

In the following subsections, the various methods for calculating earned value, variances, performance indices, and overall status indicators will be provided. The discussion on analysis will conclude by detailing the forecasting tools available from earned value data.

### **3.5.1 Measuring Earned Value**

Similar to the budget, earned value can be measured in dollars, man-hours, or any other measurable unit. There are several methods for measuring earned value dependent on the type of work being performed. The type of effort involved with the work activity separates the different methods into three categories, which will be identified. The three categories are:<sup>65</sup>

- Discrete Effort
- Apportioned Effort
- Level of Effort

#### **3.5.1.1 Discrete Effort**

Discrete effort project tasks have a definable scope and objectives that can be scheduled, and have progress measured against.<sup>66</sup> The discrete effort methods of measuring earned value will now be described in more detail.

**Fixed Ratio Formula Method** – Perhaps the easiest method to understand and to implement is a fixed ratio that adds to 100 percent. Common uses of this method are with a 0/100, 25/75,

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<sup>63</sup> DSMC, 2001, p. 55

<sup>64</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996 p. 111 – 119.

<sup>65</sup> Harroff, 2001.

<sup>66</sup> Harroff, 2001.

or 50/50 ratio. These methods allow a given percentage complete when an activity starts and the remainder when its finish date is reported. For example, with the 25/75 method, 25% is reported complete at the start, and 100% is reported at the finish. However, the accuracy of this method as a progress measure clearly declines for longer work packages, since there is a measure of progress only in the period the work starts and the period the work ends. Interim periods will show no progress; hence, this method will not be consistent with the BCWS for longer durations.<sup>67</sup>

Weighted Milestone Method – For durations greater than two periods, the use of a weighted milestone method for planning resources and measuring progress works well. This method has the advantage of showing physical accomplishment of milestones leading to completion of the work package. Each milestone is assigned a specific budgeted value, which will be earned upon physical completion of the task.<sup>68</sup>

While this is one of the preferred methods for calculating earned value, it requires significant upfront planning in order to establish the necessary milestones for each task. Therefore, care should be taken when using this method to ensure that the milestones are not artificial, but rather a natural subdivision of the work.

Percent Complete Method – If a task is greater than two months in duration and discrete interim milestones cannot be identified, another technique that can be selected is the percent complete method. This method is most desirable when the percent complete can be calculated based on measurable parameters such as length, square feet, or cubic yards of work accomplished. When such parameters are not available, this method can be questionable since estimates are frequently made on a subjective basis.<sup>69</sup>

Percent Complete with Milestone Gates Method – An alternative to the percent complete method is to introduce milestone “gates” that allow subjective estimates up to a point at which a designated performance mark must be passed. This method provides a balance between the

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<sup>67</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p 89

<sup>68</sup> DSMC, 2001, p.114

<sup>69</sup> DSMC, 2001, p. 115

initial planning required with the weighted milestones and the possible subjectivity with the percent complete method.<sup>70</sup>

Earned Standards – The earned standards method is useful for production-type work and is perhaps the most sophisticated method of computing earned value. Standards of performance based on historical cost data, time and motion studies, etc. are used to measure the earned value. However, no standard for computing the earned value with this method works best in every situation, and often several are utilized. A recommended approach is to allow several standards to be used initially with a management consensus required to determine which one is eventually selected.<sup>71</sup>

Equivalent Unit Method – This method is based on measuring the number of units or items that have been completed and comparing the result to the total number of units or items that have to be completed. This approach is best suited for manufacturing or activities with repetitive elements.<sup>72</sup>

### 3.5.1.2 Apportioned Effort

The second of the three categories with which to measure earned value is apportioned effort. Apportioned effort is useful for tasks whose planning and performance has a direct relationship to another task. The earned value for the apportioned task is driven by the status on the linked task. Quality control and inspections are examples of apportioned effort.<sup>73</sup>

### 3.5.1.3 Level of Effort

The final category is level of effort. Level of effort is work scope of a general or supportive nature for which performance cannot be measured or is impractical to measure. Because these tasks are more time driven than task driven, the earned value always equals the planned value, regardless of the work done.<sup>74</sup> Therefore, level of effort scopes of work do not

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<sup>70</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p 91

<sup>71</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p 93

<sup>72</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p 92

<sup>73</sup> Harroff, 2001

<sup>74</sup> Harroff, 2001

have a schedule variance and produce very misleading cost variances. For this reason, this method is generally not recommended to track earned value.<sup>75</sup>

### 3.5.2 Variances

It is safe to say that no plan, schedule or estimate is exact and thus variances are certain to occur.<sup>76</sup> A variance is the difference between the planned, scheduled, or actual costs.<sup>77</sup> “Typical causes of variances include poor initial planning or budgeting, changes to the project’s scope, changes in technology related to the project, changes to the delivery schedule, changes to labor contracts, changes to material costs, inflation, and measurement error.”<sup>78</sup> The presence of significant variance notifies management that something needs to be examined and proper corrective action taken. With earned value analysis, three main variances can be determined. The first two, Schedule Variance and Cost Variance, will be defined in this section. The last, the Variance at Completion, will be discussed after introduction of additional terminology.

#### 3.5.2.1 Schedule Variance (SV)

Schedule variance provides a representation of schedule status, indicating whether budgeted work is being accomplished as planned.<sup>79</sup> It is the difference between the earned value and the planned value as indicated in Equation 3.1:

$$SV = \text{Earned Value} - \text{Planned Value} = BCWP - BCWS$$

**Equation 3.1 – Schedule Variance**

The schedule variance may be calculated on current or cumulative data, with the cumulative schedule variance being used most often for analysis purposes. A positive variance indicates favorable schedule performance since the amount of work performed is greater than what was scheduled. Conversely, a negative variance means less work was performed than planned and the project is behind schedule.<sup>80</sup> It is important to note, however, that at contract

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<sup>75</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 95

<sup>76</sup> Valkenhoff, 1981, p.223

<sup>77</sup> Microsoft, p. 307

<sup>78</sup> Christensen, 1993, p. 17

<sup>79</sup> AFMC, 1998, p. 39-27.2

<sup>80</sup> DSMC, 20001, p. 136

completion the schedule variance is always zero because all scheduled work has been performed.

### **3.5.2.2 Schedule Variance Percent (SV%)**

Although, it does not introduce new data, the schedule variance percent is significant in that it normalizes the SV by comparing it to the total budget. Equation 3.2 summarizes the method for calculating the SV%. A positive SV% indicates that the project or activity may be ahead of schedule and a negative SV% means the project may be behind schedule. As discussed for SV, the SV% is most meaningful when calculated using cumulative data and when the analysis includes a detailed review of all performance measurements.<sup>81</sup>

$$SV\% = \frac{SV}{Planned\ Value} = \frac{SV}{BCWS}$$

**Equation 3.2 – Schedule Variance Percent**

### **3.5.2.3 Cost Variance (CV)**

Cost Variance measures the difference between the cost that was planned for a given task and the cost that was actually incurred in performing the task.<sup>82</sup> As such, it is the difference between the earned value and the actual costs as shown in Equation 3.3:

$$CV = Earned\ Value - Actual\ Costs = BCWP - ACWP$$

**Equation 3.3 – Cost Variance**

The cost variance may be calculated on either cumulative or current data. As with the schedule variance, the cumulative cost variance is most often used for analysis purposes. A positive cost variance indicates that the contractor is accomplishing work for less than was budgeted. On the other hand, a negative CV means more money was spent for the work accomplished than was originally planned.<sup>83</sup> An example calculation for both the SV and the CV is presented in Figure 3.4.

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<sup>81</sup> AFMC, 1998. p. 39-27.4b

<sup>82</sup> DOE, 2000, p. 10-6

<sup>83</sup> AFMC, 1998. p. 39-27.1

Earned Value Project Management	
Planned Value = \$300K	Variance from the Planned Schedule = (-\$100K)
Earned Value = \$200K	The True Cost
Actual Costs = \$300K	Variance = (-\$100K)

Figure 3.4 - Schedule and Cost Variance Example<sup>84</sup>

### 3.5.2.4 Cost Variance Percent (CV%)

This measure expresses the cost variance as a percentage relative to the amount of work accomplished, as shown in Equation 3.4. A negative CV% means the project is over cost by the calculated percentage. The CV% value should be compared with the CPI for the same period to verify a cost overrun or underrun situation.<sup>85</sup> For example, a CPI of .8 indicates poor cost performance; therefore, a negative CV% would be expected.

$$CV\% = \frac{CV}{\text{Earned Value}} = \frac{CV}{BCWP}$$

Equation 3.4 – Cost Variance Percent

By analyzing the cause of a variance, the project manager can identify significant differences between the planned and actual cost performance. Generally, a negative variance can be viewed as bad and a positive variance as good, although this may not always be the case. For example, a positive variance may be caused from the contractor's front-loading of his schedule of values, thereby robbing resources intended for later tasks. Another indicator of problems during variance analysis is if no variances are reported over several periods. This can indicate a lack of tracking on the contractor's part since it is difficult to forecast work with such accuracy.

During analysis, if the cumulative CV and SV both reflect negative trends, the task being performed may be very complex, the contractor may have underestimated the scope of the task,

<sup>84</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 20

<sup>85</sup> AFMC, 1998. p. 39-27.4a

or the method of calculating earned value may not fully take credit for work as it is performed. Positive values for both variances may be due to good contractor performance, a simple task, or an overly generous contractor estimate for the effort.<sup>86</sup> A graphical representation of both the Schedule Variance and the Cost Variance is provided in Figure 3.5:

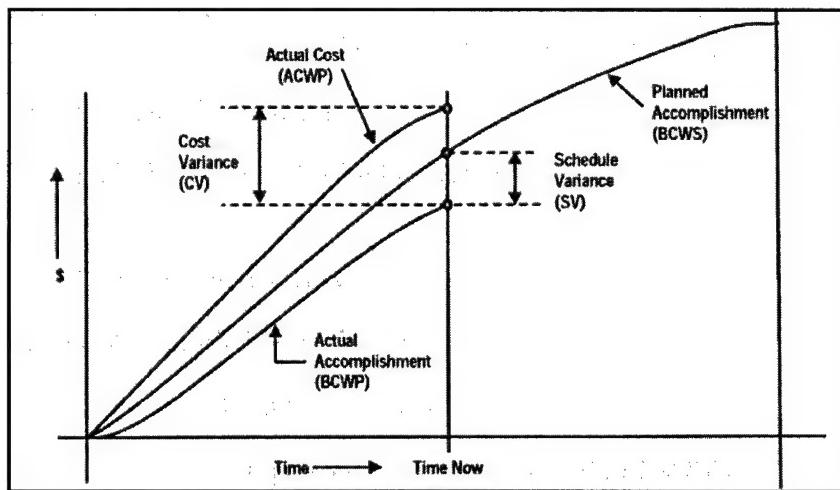


Figure 3.5 - Graphical View of Schedule and Cost Variances<sup>87</sup>

<sup>86</sup> AFMC, 1998, p. 39-27.4

<sup>87</sup> DOE, 2000, p. A-1

### 3.5.3 Performance Indices

"Performance indices show the percentage of variation, between planned and actual performance, for the current period, cumulative to date, and at the completion of a task."<sup>88</sup> The Schedule Performance Index and the Cost Performance Index are calculated to provide an efficiency factor for the work accomplished in either the current period or a cumulative timeframe. The analysis techniques that produce these two performance indices will now be described.

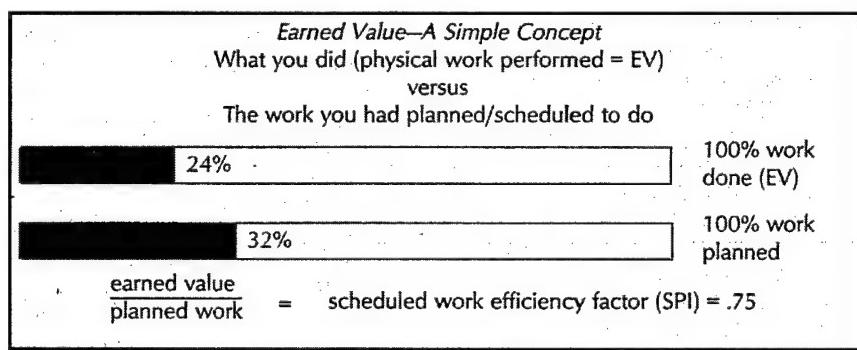
#### 3.5.3.1 Schedule Performance Index (SPI)

The SPI indicates the ability of the contractor to control the project schedule and compares the budget for those tasks scheduled to be accomplished as of the status date with the budget for the work that was actually accomplished as of that date.<sup>89</sup> It is calculated as the ratio of earned value to planned value as shown in Equation 3.5:

$$SPI = \frac{\text{Earned Value}}{\text{Planned Value}} = \frac{BCWP}{BCWS}$$

**Equation 3.5 – Schedule Performance Index**

An SPI of 1.0 indicates that the project is on schedule and performing at 100% efficiency. An index greater than 1.0 shows an ahead of schedule situation, while one below 1.0 reflects a behind schedule condition. Figure 3.6 below provides an example.



**Figure 3.6 - Schedule Performance Index<sup>90</sup>**

<sup>88</sup> Harroff, 2001

<sup>89</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p.113

<sup>90</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1994, p. 22

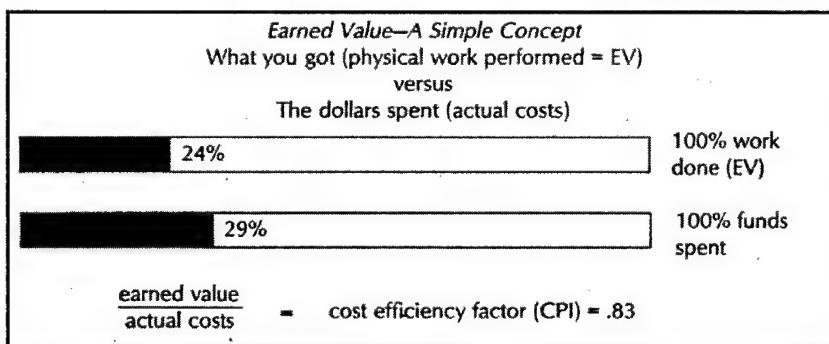
### **3.5.3.2 Cost Performance Index (CPI)**

The CPI indicates the ability of the contractor to control cost and compares the budget for those tasks that have been accomplished with the actual cost of accomplishing the tasks.<sup>91</sup> It is calculated as the ratio of earned value to actual costs as shown in Equation 3.6:

$$CPI = \frac{\text{Earned Value}}{\text{Actual Costs}} = \frac{BCWP}{ACWP}$$

**Equation 3.6 – Cost Performance Index**

The CPI measures the cost efficiency with which work has been accomplished. A CPI of 1.0 indicates that for every actual dollar spent, a dollar's worth of work was accomplished. An index above 1.0 indicates a cost underrun or higher efficiency, while an index below 1.0 reflects performance below what was expected. “A CPI less than 1.0 is rarely improved upon, and usually proves to be unrecoverable.”<sup>92</sup> An example calculation follows in Figure 3.7.



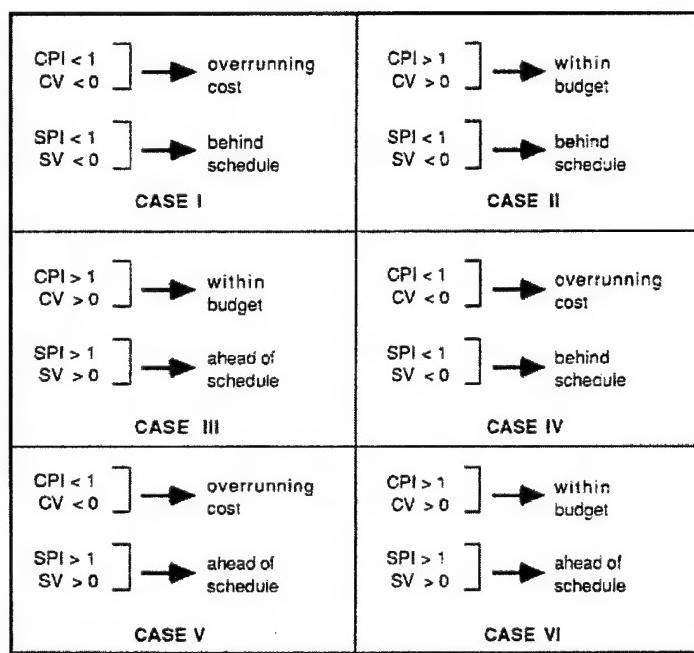
**Figure 3.7 Cost Performance Index<sup>93</sup>**

<sup>91</sup> AFMC, 1998, p. 39-27.7

<sup>92</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p.114

<sup>93</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1994, p. 22

With the major components of earned value performance measures defined, one can examine the various scenarios that exist. With an unchanging baseline, six scenarios exist for a given project as illustrated in Figure 3.8.<sup>94</sup> By referencing this figure, a quick determination can be made as to the budget and schedule status.



**Figure 3.8 - Six Scenarios of Earned Value Analysis**

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<sup>94</sup> Singh, 1991, p. 42

### **3.5.4 Overall Project Status Indicators**

In addition to the SPI and the CPI, three other calculations that can be made in order to determine efficiencies on a project are percent complete, planned percent complete, and percent spent.

#### ***3.5.4.1 Percent Complete***

One of the more recognized performance calculations in the construction industry is percent complete. It is the relationship between the budgeted value for what has been completed to date and the total budget,<sup>95</sup> as shown in Equation 3.7.

$$\text{Percent Complete} = (\text{BCWP} / \text{BAC}) \times 100$$

**Equation 3.7 – Percent Complete**

#### ***3.5.4.2 Planned Percent Complete***

In conjunction with percent complete, the planned percent complete provides a comparison for what was scheduled to date.<sup>96</sup> Equation 3.8 shows the relationship:

$$\text{Planned \% Complete} = (\text{BCWS} / \text{BAC}) \times 100$$

**Equation 3.8 – Planned Percent Complete**

#### ***3.5.4.3 Percent Spent***

A comparison of the percent compete with the percent spent indicates performance spend efficiency. The percent spent indicator is calculated as the ratio of the actual costs to the budget at completion,<sup>97</sup> as shown in Equation 3.9:

$$\text{Percent Spent} = (\text{ACWP} / \text{BAC}) \times 100$$

**Equation 3.9 – Percent Spent**

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<sup>95</sup> DSMC, 2001, p. 139

<sup>96</sup> DSMC, 2001, p. 139

<sup>97</sup> DSMC, 2001, p. 138

### **3.5.5 Forecasting**

In addition to analyzing variances and performance indices for trends to determine problems in the execution of a project, earned value data can also be used as a forecasting tool. During execution of a project, forecasting has two objectives: to provide a forecast for the outcome of the project based on current status and trends; and second, to highlight trends or potential budget deviations that require management control.<sup>98</sup> When forecasting, one has to take into account the time phase of the project. At the beginning of a project, uncertainty about the outcome is higher than at the end of the project. This uncertainty results in a range of possible final projections. With earned value data, however, early predictions have proven to be reliable. As described by Fleming and Koppelman:

“Perhaps the single most compelling reason to employ earned value is that it enables the project manager to be able to ‘statistically’ forecast the (probable) final cost, and schedule results on the project...from as early as the 15 percent completion point. With earned value, the project does not have to wait until it is 90 percent spent to know that it has a problem. The 90 percent point is too late to alter the project’s final course. Earned value provides an ‘early warning’ message to management in time to take corrective action, in time to influence the final results with aggressive action.”<sup>99</sup>

“Successful forecasting is based on a foundation of a good baseline plan, tracking performance against that plan, and the commitment of upper management to use and act on the performance data.”<sup>100</sup> From earned value data and the performance measurements identified, an Estimate at Completion, To-Complete Performance Index, and the Estimated Completion Date can be forecasted.

#### ***3.5.5.1 Estimate at Completion***

The Estimate at Completion (EAC) is an important tool used in forecasting because it gives an indication as to where the project cost is heading. Christensen presents many methods to forecast the EAC, however they all take the basic form shown in Equation 3.10:

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<sup>98</sup> McMullan, 1996, p. 20.1

<sup>99</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 127

<sup>100</sup> Smith, 1999, p.9

$$EAC = ACWP_{CUM} + \frac{(BAC - BCWP_{CUM})}{P_f}$$

**Equation 3.10 – Estimate at Completion**

In the above equation, since the budget for the remaining work is frequently understated, a performance factor is used to adjust it upward. There are four types of performance factors ( $P_f$ ) that can be used, all of which assume that past efficiency will continue in the future.<sup>101</sup> The four factors are:

1. Schedule Performance Index
2. Cost Performance Index
3. Composite Index
4. Schedule Cost Index (SCI)

Since the SPI and CPI have already been discussed, the Composite Index and the Schedule Cost Index will be reviewed. The Composite Index is the weighted sum of the SPI and CPI, where the weights add to one. The value assigned to these weights should be based on experience and historical data from the project. The Schedule Cost Index is the product of the SPI and CPI. Equations 3.11 and 3.12 depict these two performance factors respectively.<sup>102</sup>

$$\text{Composite Index} = (W_1 \times SPI) + (W_2 \times CPI), \text{ where } W_1 + W_2 = 1$$

**Equation 3.11 – Composite Index**

$$\text{Schedule Cost Index (SCI)} = SPI \times CPI$$

**Equation 3.12 – Schedule Cost Index**

In deciding which factor to use, the CPI based performance factor has proven to be the most useful since the quantity of known data increases as the quantity of work decreases.<sup>103</sup> However, through the use of multiple factors, a range of EACs can be produced thereby increasing the likelihood that the final EAC will be included. The low end of this predicted range is usually produced using a special case for the performance factor. With a  $P_f$  of 1.0, the assumption is that all future work will be done as planned and the current cost variance will

<sup>101</sup> Christensen, 1993, p. 18

<sup>102</sup> Christensen, 1999, p. 290

<sup>103</sup> Christensen, 1993, p. 21

remain constant.<sup>104</sup> The high end of the range is generally calculated using the SCI performance factor.<sup>105</sup>

### **3.5.5.2 Variance at Completion**

With EAC defined, the last variance can now be calculated. The Variance at Completion (VAC) is determined by comparing the budget at completion with the latest estimate at completion as expressed in Equation 3.13:

$$VAC = BAC - EAC$$

**Equation 3.13 – Variance at Completion**

Again, another way at looking at this variance is to express it relative to the original estimate for the total cost of the project. Equation 3.14 shows the formula for calculating the Variance at Completion Percent.

$$VAC\% = VAC / BAC$$

**Equation 3.14 –Variance at Completion Percent**

With both the VAC and the VAC%, a positive value indicates that, if current performance continues, the project will be completed below cost. If the result is a negative value, then an overrun situation at project completion can be expected.<sup>106</sup>

Regardless of the method used in calculating the EAC, the value should be carefully reviewed with consideration given to the following:

- Past performance
- Costs incurred to date
- Assessment of tasks remaining
- Future economic conditions
- Cost and Schedule Variance
- Expected future efficiency
- To-Complete Performance Index

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<sup>104</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 133

<sup>105</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1999, p. 290

<sup>106</sup> AFMC, 1998, p. 39-27.3

The last consideration, the To-Complete Performance Index, is a tool that can be utilized to test the reasonableness of the forecasted EAC.

### 3.5.5.3 To-Complete Performance Index

Whereas the SPI and CPI indicate past performance efficiency, the To-Complete Performance Index (TCPI) indicates the cost efficiency factor that must be attained if the remaining work is to be completed within a financial goal. This financial goal can be the total budget, the forecasted EAC, the contract price, or any value less the actual costs that have been incurred to date.<sup>107</sup> Therefore, the TCPI represents the relationship between the work remaining and the funds remaining to complete the project. The TCPI formula with the EAC as the financial goal is shown in Equation 3.15:

$$\text{TCPI}_{\text{EAC}} = \frac{\text{Work Remaining}}{\text{Funds Remaining}} = \frac{\text{BAC} - \text{BWCP}_{\text{CUM}}}{\text{EAC} - \text{ACWP}_{\text{CUM}}}$$

**Equation 3.15 – To-Complete Performance Index**

A TCPI greater than 1.0 indicates that future efficiency will need to be greater than planned, while a figure less than 1.0 indicates future efficiency can be less than planned to achieve the financial goal. Christensen notes that for a project more than 20% complete, if the difference between the  $\text{TCPI}_{\text{EAC}}$  and the  $\text{CPI}_{\text{cum}}$  is more than  $\pm 10\%$ , the EAC has probably been understated.<sup>108</sup>

### 3.5.5.4 Estimated Completion Date

A forecast of the Estimated Completion Date can be determined by graphically examining the earned value and planned costs. As shown in Figure 3.9, by measuring the time distance from the point on the earned value curve that corresponds with the status date, horizontally to the planned value curve, the schedule variance can be expressed in units of time. By applying this variance to critical path information, a prediction of the potential completion date for the project can be made.<sup>109</sup>

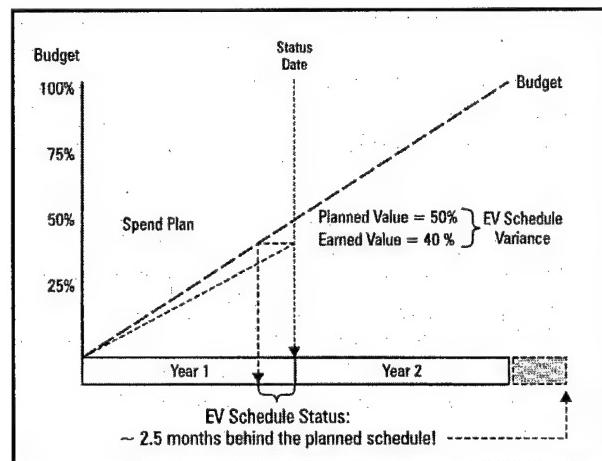
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<sup>107</sup> DSMC, 2000, p. 140

<sup>108</sup> Christensen, 1993, p. 21

<sup>109</sup> Fleming, Koppelman, 1996, p. 139

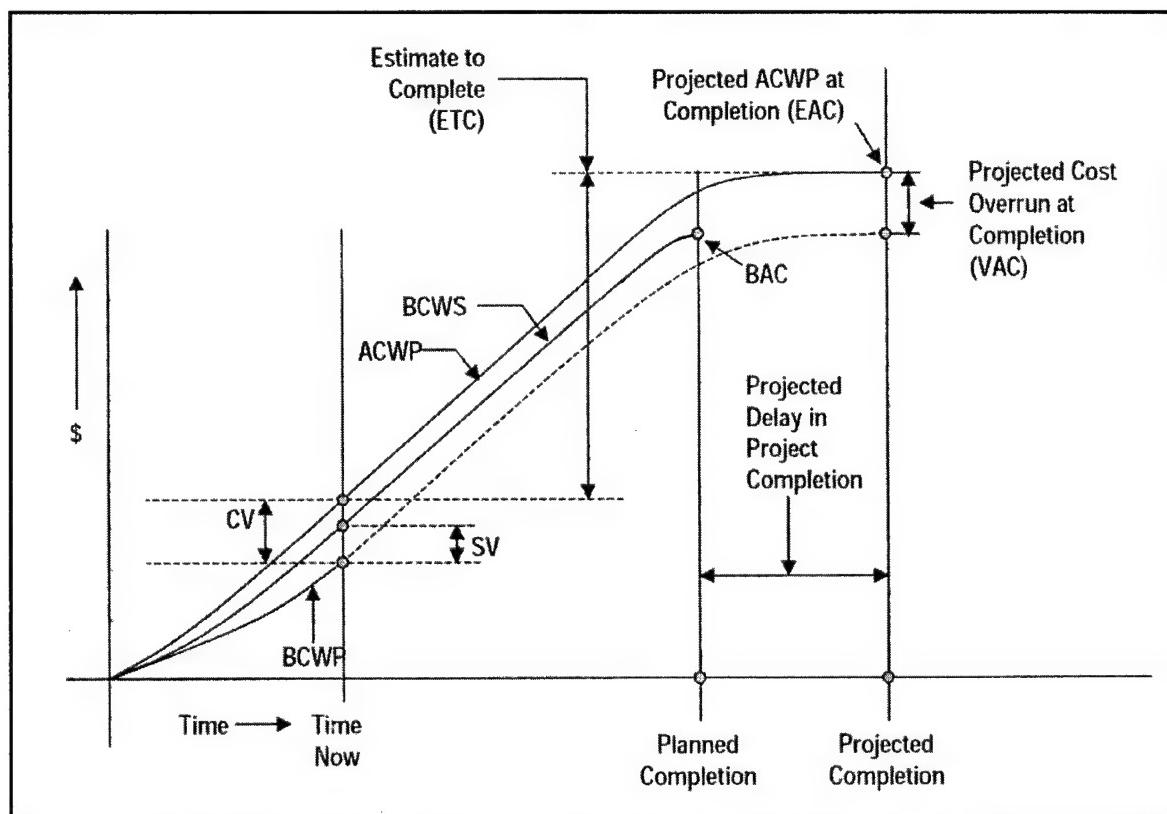
When making this prediction, it is essential to consider the total float of the project. By accomplishing non-critical activities before their planned start date, it is possible to earn more than what was scheduled. The result of this will be a distortion of the schedule variance and of the project's progress. Therefore, use of the schedule variance as a time predictor should be coordinated with the critical path of the project.



**Figure 3.9 - Forecast of Scheduled Completion Date**

### **3.6 Summary**

In this chapter, the general steps required to implement an Earned Value Management System were introduced and discussed. First, the necessity to properly organize the project scope with a Work Breakdown Structure was pointed out. Next, the need to assign responsibility and the ways in which the Organization Breakdown Structure accomplished this were reviewed. The planning, scheduling, and allocation of a budget to work packages and their role in forming the Performance Measurement Baseline was presented. This chapter then proceeded to describe the many methods that exist in calculating earned value for work activities in progress. Finally, various performance measures and forecasting methods that can be utilized when performing earned value analysis were detailed. Figure 3.11 below summarizes the earned value parameters reviewed in this paper.



**Figure 3.10 - Earned Value Parameters<sup>110</sup>**

<sup>110</sup> DOE, 2000, p. A-2

## **4. Naval Construction Force Project Management**

Before applying the earned value concept to Naval Construction Force (NCF) project management, it is necessary to first review the planning and execution phases utilized throughout the NCF in construction operations.

### **4.1 NCF Overview**

The Naval Construction Force refers to a group of naval organizations, which possess the capability to construct, maintain, and operate, both in wartime and in peacetime a myriad of facilities in support of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps. The mission of the NCF has been defined as:

With Compassion for others – we build, we fight – for peace with freedom.  
We provide the Navy, Marine Corps, Unified CINCS, and other customers with rapid contingency response, quality construction, disaster recovery support, and humanitarian assistance.<sup>111</sup>

Table 4.1 provides a listing of the type and the number of units that make up the NCF.

**Table 4.1 – Units of the NCF<sup>112</sup>**

Type of Seabee Organization	Total Number	Total Active	Total Reserve
Naval Construction Brigade	2	2	0
Naval Construction Regiment (Homeport)	2	2	0
Naval Construction Regiment (Line)	6	2	4
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion	20	8	12
Naval Construction Force Support Unit	2	0	2
Underwater Construction Team	2	2	0
Amphibious Construction Battalion	2	2	0
Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit	2	0	2
Construction Battalion Unit	19	19	0

All of these NCF units are comprised of officers of the Civil Engineer Corp (CEC) and enlisted personnel, commonly referred to as Seabees, trained in construction skills.<sup>113</sup> While construction planning and execution is a common practice throughout each of the units, the

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<sup>111</sup> Department of the Navy (DON) OPNAV 5450.46K, 1999, p. 5

<sup>112</sup> DON, 1997.

application of the earned value concept for this research will be centered on the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB).

#### **4.1.1 Naval Mobile Construction Battalions**

Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) provide highly skilled construction support to Navy, Marine Corps, and other forces in military operations. This mission is met through the construction and maintenance of base facilities, the repair of battle-damaged facilities, and by conducting limited defensive operations as required. In addition to standard wood, steel, masonry and concrete construction, NMCBs also perform specialized construction such as water well drilling and rapid runway repair. In times of emergency or disaster, NMCBs can also conduct disaster control and recovery operations.<sup>114</sup>

In peacetime, NMCBs complete a rotation cycle every 14 months. Seven months are spent at a homeport location and the other seven months on deployment. Currently, the eight active duty NMCBs are split between the homeport locations of Port Hueneme, CA and Gulfport, MS and four overseas deployment sites: two in the Atlantic at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico and Rota, Spain, and two in the Pacific at Guam and Okinawa. Various evolutions during this cycle prepare, evaluate and maintain the Battalion's readiness for not only responsive military construction support, but also defensive combat and disaster recover operations.<sup>115</sup>

#### **4.2 Project Planning**

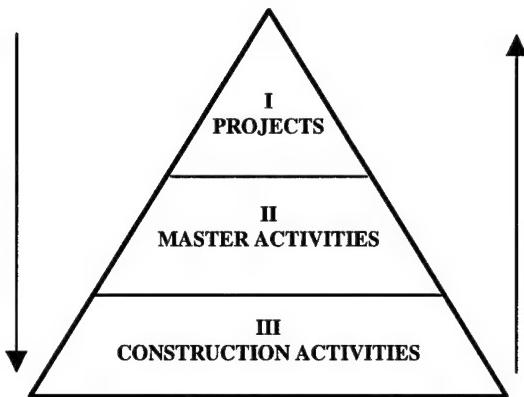
Good construction planning and estimating procedures are essential to the ability of a Battalion to provide quality construction. Construction management in an NMCB is comprised of three levels as shown in Figure 4.1.

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<sup>113</sup> Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) P-315.

<sup>114</sup> DON OPNAV 5450.46K, 1999, p. 5

<sup>115</sup> DON, 1995, p II-3



**Figure 4.1 – Seabee Multi-Level Construction Management<sup>116</sup>**

The above diagram represents that planning is accomplished as a top-down, bottoms-up cycle. Once initiated at a generic project level, planning proceeds to the detailed level before eventually rolling back up into a finalized project package. Further detail as to the amount of information entailed at each level will be covered under the scheduling section of this chapter.

#### **4.2.1 Fundamentals of Seabee Construction Management**

Construction management in the Seabees is based on Critical Path Method (CPM) scheduling and is nearly identical to construction management techniques used in the private construction industry. One of the biggest advantages to using CPM analysis is the outstanding training value it affords the project crewleader. As defined by the *Operations Officer Handbook*, NCF project management fundamentals can be categorized into the following steps:

- **Step 1. Develop construction activities** – After careful review of the plans and specifications, the first step is to break the job down into discreet activities. Construction activities are generally less than 15 days in duration and require the same resources throughout. As a rule, an activity should be created for any function that consumes or uses direct labor resources.
- **Step 2. Estimate construction activity requirements** – For each construction activity, resource requirements need to be identified and evaluated. To track these resources, a Construction Activity Summary (CAS) sheet is used to list all

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<sup>116</sup> Civil Engineer Corp Officer School (CECOS), 1997, p. I-1

of the material, tool, equipment, and manpower requirements along with safety, quality control, and environmental concerns.

- **Step 3. Development of the logic network** – The logic network is the basic management tool for control, monitoring, and distribution of all resources that are directly related to time. In the planning stage, this logic network is a pure dependency diagram in that all activities are listed in the order they must be accomplished, without regard to particular construction preference.
- **Step 4. Schedule construction activities** – Upon finalizing the logic network, the next step is to determine estimated start and finish dates for each activity based on the sequence and durations of the construction tasks. A critical path is identified to help focus management attention on those activities that cannot be delayed without impacting the project completion date.
- **Step 5. Resource Management** – Resource tracking and control are crucial elements in the successful execution of a project. The project crewleader must ensure that all necessary resources are available when required. Additionally, once on site, resources must be controlled to ensure their productive employment. Proper attention to resource allocation and leveling, the matching of construction activities scheduled to the resources available, will assist in meeting this goal.<sup>117</sup>

#### 4.2.2 Detailed Planning

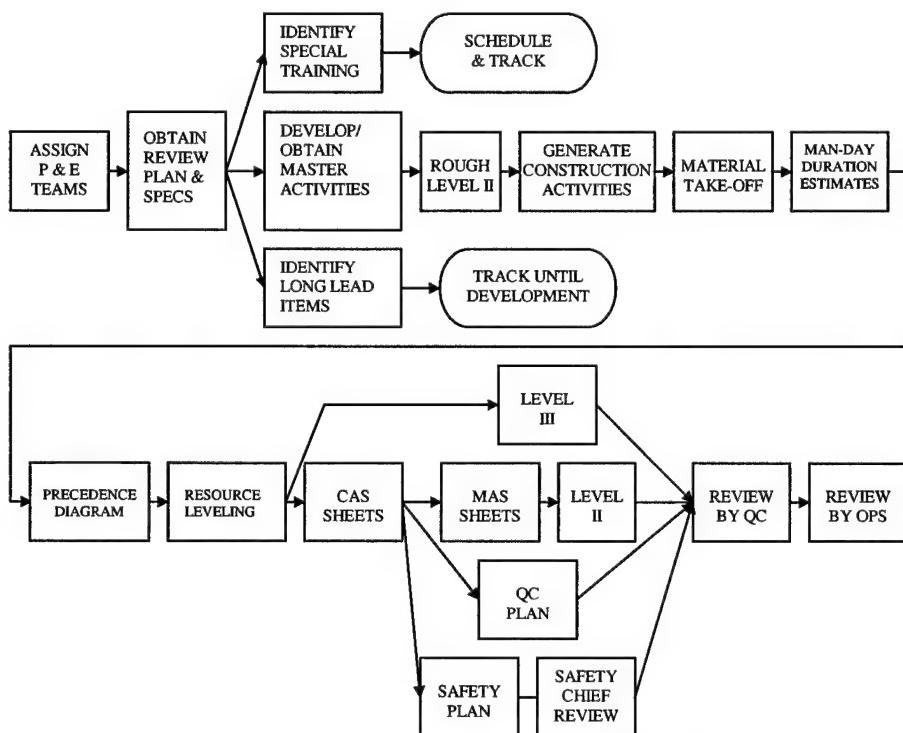
Having outlined the general fundamentals used by the NCF in planning, a presentation of the detailed planning sequence will further explain the generation of a finalized project strategy. Table 4.2 outlines the project planning milestones from the *Seabee Crewleader's Handbook* that form the backbone of NCF project planning. Figure 4.2 presents these steps in an easy to follow flowchart.

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<sup>117</sup> NAVFAC 5200.2B, p. II-6

**Table 4.2 – NMCB Project Planning Milestones**

1. Designate Crewleader and Planning Team	13. Complete Construction Activity Summary Sheets
2. Pre-Planning Conference	14. Develop Level III Network
3. Review Plans and Specifications	15. Input Network into Computer
4. Identify Long Lead Materials	16. Resource Level Project
5. Identify Required Skills and Training	17. Develop Level III Bar Chart
6. Complete Project Scope Sheet	18. Complete Master Activity Summary Sheets
7. Complete Master Activity Listing	19. Develop Level II Bar Chart
8. Develop Rough Level II Bar Chart	20. Consolidate Tool Requirements
9. Develop Level II Logic Network	21. Consolidate Equipment Requirements
10. Generate Construction Activity Listing	22. Consolidate Safety Plan
11. Conduct Material Take-offs	23. Consolidate Quality Control Plan
12. Develop Bill of Materials	24. Prepare Project Briefing for Chain of Command



**Figure 4.2 – Project Planning Flowchart<sup>118</sup>**

<sup>118</sup> DON, 1995, p. 2-5

The results of each of these steps are maintained throughout the life of the project in the project package, a collection of all the information required to plan, schedule, monitor, and execute a project.<sup>119</sup> Beyond identifying in detail the steps involved in planning an NCF project, perhaps the most important outcomes of this process are the generation of the Construction Activity Summary (CAS) sheets, the project schedule, and the allocation of resources.

#### **4.2.3 Construction Activity Summary Sheets**

As previously identified, a CAS sheets is used to list all of the material, tool, equipment, and manpower requirements along with safety, quality control, and environmental concerns. Also included are the scheduled start and finish dates for each activity. Just as work packages are the lowest level element of the WBS, a CAS sheet summarizes the lowest level element in the NCF project planning. Through the proper use of the CAS sheet, the project crewleader can greatly reduce the chance of the project being impacted due to a lack of resources. The CAS sheets are designed to be standalone in that all pertinent information, notes, and calculations done during the planning and estimating stages are documented. Therefore, practically all construction effort in the Seabees is driven from the information contained on the completed CAS sheets.<sup>120</sup>

#### **4.2.4 Construction Scheduling**

Crucial to a workable project schedule is the proper, logical sequence of activities and good realistic durations.<sup>121</sup> Once outlined, the project schedule is displayed and tracked utilizing a bar chart. Although precedence networks are the primary scheduling tool used in the NCF, the ease of use and quick presentation of project status are two benefits gained by utilizing the bar chart.<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>119</sup> CECOS, 1997, p. I-5

<sup>120</sup> CECOS, 1997, p. 2-12

<sup>121</sup> PMI, 1996, p. 52

<sup>122</sup> Ahuja, 1994, p. 46

As discussed, Seabee project planning occurs at three distinct levels that are most readily apparent through the project schedules.

#### ***4.2.4.1 Level III schedule***

The most in depth of the three schedules is the Level III, as it represents the detailed execution plan for a particular construction project. It designates construction activities, identifies required resources, shows relationships and dependencies amongst activities, and identifies the critical path. Updated project status is maintained continuously on the jobsite as reflected on the Level III bar chart.<sup>123</sup>

#### ***4.2.4.2 Level II schedule***

At any time during a deployment, a NMBC may be working on 30 or more individual projects. A condensed project schedule, the Level II, that only lists the master activities, aids in the management of all NMBC network schedules. Additionally, the Level II contains the plot of all planned work thereby forming the project baseline against which all future progress is measured. The Level II schedule provides a broader view for determining if a project is on schedule, and indicates what particular areas are going well or need greater emphasis.<sup>124</sup>

#### ***4.2.4.3 Level I schedule***

For top-level management, the Level I schedule is a consolidated graphic representation of all projects tasked to a NMBC, either planned or in progress at a given site. While this integrated project schedule is a rather broad-brush tool, it does indicate particular problems on an individual project or at a certain detachment site that might require reallocation of resources from one project to another.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>123</sup> DON 5200.2B, 1999, II-5

<sup>124</sup> DON 5200.2B, 1999, II-5

<sup>125</sup> DON 5200.2B, 1999, II-5

#### **4.2.5 Budgeting of Resources**

Vice tracking all project costs as a dollar figure, NCF projects utilize labor mandays as the primary unit of measure. Performance measurements and analysis of project status are made through examination of earned mandays, expended mandays, and estimated mandays. A brief explanation of how mandays and activity durations are calculated will be provided to aid in the understanding of Seabee project tracking.

The primary reference for Seabee manday estimates is a manual called the *Seabee Planner's and Estimator's Handbook*. This manual lists how many man-hours it takes to complete one unit of work for various tasks and is based on historical data from past Seabee projects. The total estimated mandays (MDs) for an activity are calculated by using Equation 4.1.

$$\text{MDs} = \text{QTY of WORK} \div \text{UNIT SIZE} \times \text{MHRS PER UNIT} \div 8 \times \text{DF}$$

**Equation 4.1 – Manday Calculation**

In the equation, a Delay Factor (DF) is utilized to adjust the values from the *Seabee Planner's And Estimator's Handbook* for particular jobs site conditions and is calculated using an average of eight Production Efficiency Factors (PEF)<sup>126</sup>, as shown in Equation 4.2.

$$\text{DF} = 67 / \text{PEF}_{\text{AVG}}$$

**Equation 4.2 – Seabee Delay Factor**

The intent of a Production Efficiency Factor is to adjust for factors that will make a project crew more or less productive than the average worker identified in the *Seabee Planner's And Estimator's Handbook*. Table 4.3 on the following provides a guide for determining the subjective values for the eight Production Efficiency Factors.

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<sup>126</sup> CECOS, 1997, p. 2-5

**Table 4.3 – Production Efficiency Factor Guide**

	LOW PRODUCTION			AVG PRODUCTION			HIGH PRODUCTION	
	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95
1. WORK LOAD	CONSTRUCTION REQ'T HIGH, MISC. OVERHEAD HIGH			CONSTRUCTION REQ'T AVG, MISC. OVERHEAD AVG			CONSTRUCTION REQ'T LOW, MISC. OVERHEAD LOW	
2. SITE AREA	CRAMPED WORK AREA, POOR LAYDOWN/ACCESS			WORK AREA LIMITED, AVG LAYDOWN/ACCESS			LARGE WORK AREA, GOOD LAYDOWN/ACCESS	
3. LABOR	POORLY TRAINED/MOTIVATED CREW			ADEQUATELY TRAINED/MOTIVATED CREW			HIGHLY TRAINED/MOTIVATED CREW	
4. SUPERVISION	POORLY TRAINED/MOTIVATED OR INEXPERIENCED			ADEQUATELY TRAINED/MOTIVATED EXPERIENCED			HIGHLY TRAINED, MOTIVATED, AND EXPERIENCED	
5. JOB CONDITION	HIGH-QUALITY WORK REQ'D, SHORT FUSE			AVG QUALITY WORK REQ'D, ADEQUATE TIME			ROUGH/UNFINISHED WORK REQ'D, WELL PLANNED	
6. WEATHER	ABNORMAL HEAT, RAIN, OR COLD			MODERATE RAIN, HEAT, OR COLD			FAVORABLE RAIN, HEAT, OR COLD	
7. EQUIPMENT	POOR COND., MAINT., REPAIR, OR APPLICATION			FAIR COND., MAINT., REPAIR, OR APPLICATION			GOOD COND., MAINT., REPAIR, OR APPLICATION	
8. TACTICAL/LOGISTICAL	SLOW SUPPLY, FREQUENT TACTICAL DELAYS			NORMAL SUPPLY, FEW TACTICAL DELAYS			GOOD SUPPLY, NO TACTICAL DELAYS	

From the estimate for the mandays to complete the desired task, the budget is allocated for each construction activity via the CAS sheet. By rolling the construction activities into a project schedule, a performance baseline is produced against which future progress can be measured.

### **4.3 Project Monitoring and Reporting**

Once the project baseline is in place and execution of the construction project begins, the continued success of the project depends on efficient monitoring and regular updating of the project schedule. To accommodate this, monitoring and analysis of project progress is completed bi-weekly during an NMCB deployment. This section will identify the Situation Report, and the methods utilized in analyzing project performance.

#### **4.3.1 Situation Reports**

A Battalion submits a Situation Report (SITREP) on a monthly basis to higher headquarters to report the progress of their construction tasking. The accuracy of this SITREP is a reflection of how well the crewleaders have planned the projects work activities,

documented actual labor expenditures, and how management guided implementation of the work plan. In determining the project status for the SITREP, the following are analyzed:

- Estimated Mandays
- Earned Mandays
- Expended Mandays
- Mandays Remaining
- Scheduled Percent Complete
- Actual Percent Complete

#### **4.3.2 Estimated Mandays**

Estimated mandays are the planned value for work to be accomplished and are established during the previously identified planning phases for a NMCB project. Similar to the Budgeted Cost of Work Scheduled, they form the basis of the performance measurement baseline against which future progress is measured. Since project planning is completed before a NMCB deploys, knowledge of on-site conditions is limited thus affecting accuracy of initial project estimates. For this reason, approximately 45 days into the deployment, a complete review of performance to date will be conducted. During this 45-day review, adjustments to the project schedule baseline are allowed in order to account for any unforeseen conditions or start up inefficiencies. Afterwards, the project baseline is firm and the Battalion is committed to meeting the scheduled project completion dates.

#### **4.3.3 Earned Mandays**

Earned mandays, similar to the Budgeted Cost of Work Performed, are a reflection of the planned work that has been accomplished. For construction activities in progress, the typical method of calculating earned mandays is by utilizing the percent complete method. When available, the earned value of the work in progress is measured on parameters such as length, square feet, or cubic yards of work accomplished. When these parameters are not available, the crewleader makes a subjective estimate of the amount of work completed.

##### **4.3.3.1 Mandays Remaining**

When describing earned mandays, it is important to discuss the concept of mandays remaining. Mandays remaining represent how much planned work remains to be done on the project. They are calculated as the difference between the budget at completion, the original

estimate for the planned work, minus the mandays earned to date. This calculation is similar to the Estimate to Completion forecast made in Earned Value Management.

#### **4.3.4 Expended Mandays**

Expended mandays represent the actual mandays required to complete an activity. As such, they are equivalent to the Actual Cost of Work Performed in an Earned Value Management System. In the Seabees, timecards are utilized to record mandays expended on a construction project. Through their use, the efficiency and accountability of a project crew can be monitored.<sup>127</sup>

It is important to note that expended mandays are not used in calculating the project percent complete and, therefore, should not be confused with earned mandays. Expended mandays should be used for insight as to why a project may be behind schedule or what activities were under or overestimated. At the end of deployment, the expended mandays on each project are collected for historical data to be used in future NCF planning.

#### **4.3.5 Scheduled Percent Complete**

The scheduled percent complete, or estimated work-in-place percent complete, is similar to the performance measurement baseline. As such, it represents the time-phased estimate of the earned mandays for the project. Once established, the scheduled percent complete baseline can only be revised at the 45-day review or in the event of an approved change to the scope of work.

#### **4.3.6 Actual Percent Complete**

The actual percent complete, or earned work-in-place (WIP) percent complete, is a measurement of the planned work that has been accomplished to date and is compared to the scheduled progress. In an earned value project management, this value is similar to the Budgeted Cost of Work Performed. It is calculated by first determining the weighted percent for each master activity, which is the ratio of the estimated mandays for that activity over the total project mandays estimated. Next, by taking the product of this weighted percent and the

determined percent complete for each master activity, the actual project percent complete can be calculated.<sup>128</sup>

#### **4.3.7 Analysis of Project Performance**

From the techniques identified in measuring project performance on a NMCB project, analysis of the data can now occur. By comparing the scheduled percent complete and the actual percent complete, a determination of whether the project is ahead or behind schedule can be made. This analysis should take into account crew efficiency and their availability factor. The availability factor accounts for crewmembers that are not available as planned for in the scheduled baseline. Some of the major reasons for non-availability are illness, disciplinary actions, watches/duties, medical/dental visits, and administrative matters.<sup>129</sup> Typical availability factors on NMCB projects vary between 0.75 and 0.85.<sup>130</sup> The following guidance is utilized when analyzing project performance data:

- If estimated mandays equal actual/expended mandays and the project is behind schedule, the manday estimate is inaccurate and/or the crew is inefficient.
- If estimated mandays equal actual/expended mandays and the project is ahead of schedule, the manday estimate may have been too high and/or the crew is very efficient.
- If the actual/expended mandays are more than the estimated mandays and the project is on schedule, the manday estimates may have been too low.
- If the estimated mandays are greater than actual/expended mandays, the crew is not meeting the planned availability factor, regardless of the project status. Adjustments are necessary to ensure crews get to the work site.<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>127</sup> CECOS, 1997, p. 8-1

<sup>128</sup> CECOS, 1997, p. 8-1

<sup>129</sup> DON 5200.2B, p. IV-11

<sup>130</sup> CECOS, 1997, p. 2-10

<sup>131</sup> DON 5200.2B, p. IV-12

#### **4.4 Summary**

From an overview of the management techniques used in the Naval Construction Force, an indication of an Earned Value Management System exists. After outlining the construction management fundamentals and delving into the detailed planning steps, similarities with the defined earned value methodology were presented. Namely, the five categories associated with establishing an EVMS system do exist in NCF project management.

However, after a review of the manuals dedicated to project planning in the Seabees, it is apparent that the performance metrics that are frequently identified with earned value analysis are not readily used. The author believes that by not exploiting all the available data and analysis techniques afforded by the earned value methodology, valuable project management tools are lost.

## **5. Practical Application of Earned Value Management**

This chapter examines and presents the results of a practical application of Earned Value Management to NMCB projects. Specific problem areas that may be met in the utilization of these techniques are also identified. In reviewing this application, projects were selected from two Battalions who had recently completed overseas deployments. Two projects from NMCB SEVEN's deployment to Puerto Rico; and two from NMCB FOUR's deployment to Okinawa were selected.

### **5.1 Application of Earned Value Concepts**

Before applying the concepts learned from earned value management, a review of the data gathered from each Battalion was conducted. One of the first items that observed was the difference in the Level IIs utilized for project management. Although the general format and data were similar, there were differences in the metrics displayed beyond the standard estimated, earned, and expended mandays and calculations for percent scheduled, percent earned, and percent expended. The intent of this paper is not to point out one Battalion's techniques over another, but rather to provide an example of the different management approaches that could be unified with earned value analysis.

For example, NMCB FOUR calculates a current working estimate at completion. This is the same as forecasting an EAC with a performance factor of 1.0. Other calculations utilized for managing their projects were: Manday Efficiency per period, Percent Ahead/Behind per period, and cumulative Percent Ahead/Behind. These measures are analogous to a period, vice cumulative, Cost Performance Index, Schedule Variance Percent per period, and a cumulative Schedule Variance Percent.

As a review of earned value and NCF project management terminology, Table 5.1 aligns similar terms to aid in the understanding of the information in this chapter.

**Table 5.1 – Comparison of Earned Value and NCF Terminology**

EARNED VALUE	NCF
Planned Value BCWS	Estimated Mandays
Earned Value	Earned Mandays
Actual Costs ACWP	Expended Mandays
Performance Measurement Baseline	Scheduled Percent Complete Curve
Percent Complete	Percent Complete Work-in-Place (WIP)
Planned Percent Complete	Percent Scheduled
Percent Spent	Percent Expended
Estimate at Completion	Current Working Estimate
Estimate to Completion	Mandays Remaining
Budget at Completion	Tasked Mandays
Cost Performance Index	Manday Efficiency
Schedule Variance Percent	Percent Ahead/Behind

## 5.2 Methodology

In applying the metrics identified with earned value analysis, the following were calculated for each project:

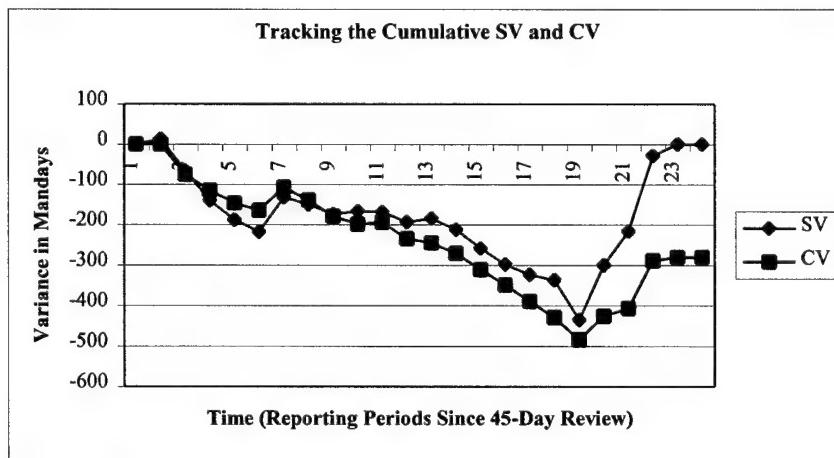
- Schedule Variance
- Cost Variance
- Schedule Variance Percent
- Cost Variance Percent
- Schedule Performance Index
- Cost Performance Index
- Estimates at Completion
- To-Complete Performance Indices
- Variance at Completion
- Variance at Completion Percent

For EAC, forecasts were made utilizing each of the identified performance factors including the special case of  $P_f = 1.0$ . After calculating the performance measures, plots were made for the forecasted Estimates at Completion, as well as the calculated cumulative SV, CV, SPI, and CPI versus time. In all plots, time was representative of the number of bi-weekly reporting periods since the 45-day review. Additionally, since the Level IIs only included planned value and earned value plots, a plot of the actual costs was made. The results of these calculations can be found in Appendix C.

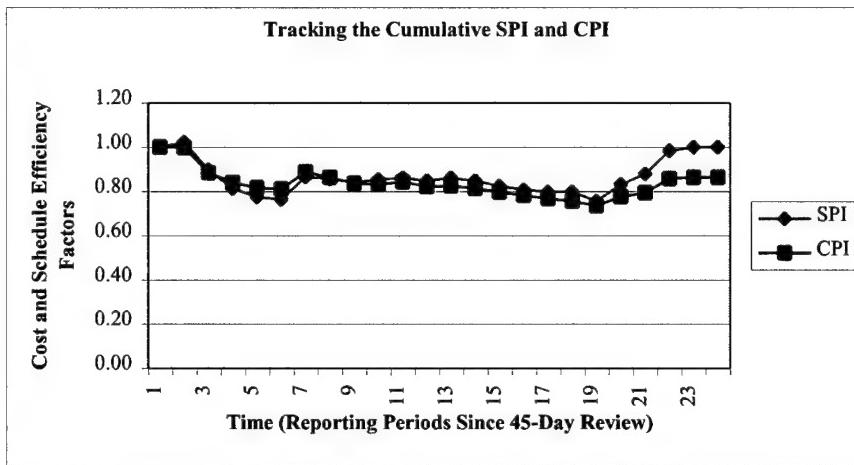
### **5.3 Review of Application**

The application of earned value analysis to the sample NMCB projects afforded new means by which to analyze each project's status. In addition to the plots of the earned value, planned value, and actual cost data, the graphs of the cumulative CPI, SPI, CV, and SV provided good indicators of project performance to date. The analysis also highlighted performance trends that would provide valuable information to management.

After an initial, negative performance trend, most projects tended to level out before eventually gaining in efficiency. At the beginning of a deployment, project crews need to familiarize themselves with the project and on-site conditions. Additionally, project support and material supply issues may not be entirely resolved and therefore can affect performance. After achieving a certain level of efficiency, an increase can generally be expected towards the end of the deployment as emphasis on project completion increases. Through careful review of these issues and tracking of the performance trends during the execution of a project, management action can be focused as required. Figures 5.1 and 5.2 are examples of this performance trend:

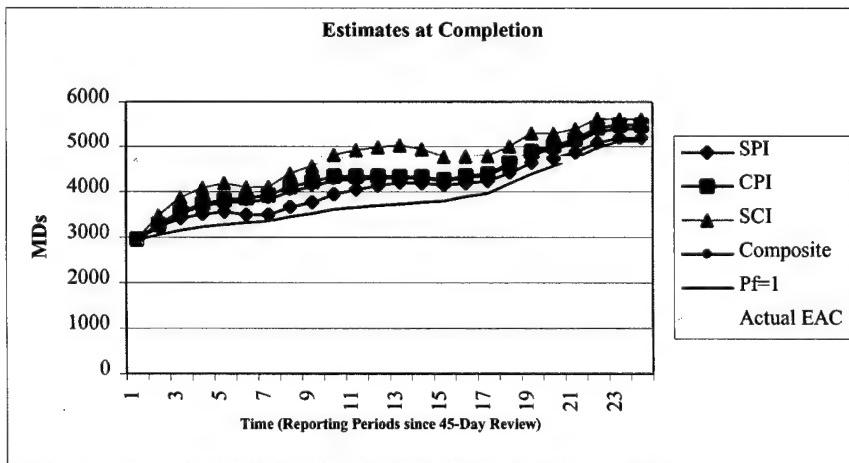


**Figure 5.1 - Tracking Cumulative Cost and Schedule Variances**



**Figure 5.2 - Tracking Cumulative Performance Indices**

The next area that was reviewed from the applied analysis techniques was the forecasting of an Estimate at Completion. With the final actual cost known, the accuracy of these predictions could be monitored. As can be expected, the Schedule Cost Index produced the highest values for projects behind schedule due to the multiplication factor of a SPI and CPI less than one. With a performance factor of 1.0, the lowest estimates were achieved, however this factor does not account for past performance efficiencies. Figure 5.3 displays the trend of the forecasts throughout the duration of one of the projects. The projected values in this example ended up higher than the final actual costs since the project was not completed within the deployment and was turned over to the relieving Battalion. By forecasting the EAC from past performance efficiency, a more accurate estimate of the mandays to be turned over to the relieving Battalion can be made.



**Figure 5.3 - Range of EAC Forecasts on NMCB Project**

Having reviewed the application of the earned value techniques to these sample projects, the benefits of their use on NMCB projects can be observed. The greatest benefit is perhaps in the trend analysis that it affords management to avoid future problems and to monitor the results of implemented changes.

## **5.4 Obstacles to Implementation**

With the implementation of any new management approach, obstacles are bound to be present. At times, a desire to maintain the “status quo” can prevent changes from occurring. Although, some of the basics concepts of earned value are utilized in NCF project management, the author believes that in establishing all of identified methods, techniques, and analysis tools the following obstacles may appear.

### **5.4.1 Training**

In order to meet the mission identified for the Naval Construction Force, the various units continuously conduct training in the areas of military and construction proficiency. Just as earned value methodology evolved from simple concepts introduced by industrial engineers, to becoming an overbearing requirement implemented by the government, and finally reforming back into a more widely accepted standard, the implementation of earned value can probably expect similar results initially in the NCF. Until project crewleaders and management gain awareness and experience in the techniques identified, training will need to occur to expedite the learning process.

### **5.4.2 Accurate Accumulation of Data**

Although timecard data is tracked and accumulated for each project, it is the author's experience that this is a time consuming process involving significant effort to ensure accuracy. As it currently stands, the timecard accounting system and the project management system are not integrated. Therefore, the successful application of earned value management would partly be based on management's ability to quickly gather required data for analysis when desired.

#### **5.4.3 Revision of Deployment Tasking**

As was identified, “rapid contingency response” is a key element of the NCF’s mission. When called upon to provide this response, many of the resources that are assigned to ongoing projects will be called upon to fulfill this mission. In order to maintain the validity of the earned value analysis, adjustments to the affected project’s plan would need to be made.

#### **5.4.4 Support of System**

The implementation of an Earned Value Management System must be accepted by both project crewmembers as well as management to be fully successful. To achieve this, the benefits and knowledge gained through the analysis must be shared amongst all parties involved. Without this awareness and buy in by the lowest level team member, the implementation of earned value analysis and the gathering of data can appear as an added burden to the execution of a project.

Furthermore, the results of earned value analysis must be constructively examined as how to improve project performance and not individual performance. Otherwise, the possibility of data manipulation exists in an effort to avoid a poor individual evaluation. Through proper management focus and the introduction of earned value project management as a tool for improvement, vice another requirement that must be met, this challenge can be surpassed.

### **5.5 Summary**

In summary, this chapter presented and reviewed the application of the described earned value analysis metrics to actual NCF projects. The methodology used in employing the concepts identified in this paper to the sample projects was discussed. Finally, probable obstacles to the successful introduction and implementation of the earned value management approach were presented.

## **6. Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **6.1 Conclusions**

Earned Value Management is a powerful tool that can assist the Naval Construction Force in the management of its construction projects. It enables the project team to identify problems and trends at an earlier stage, thereby allowing appropriate action to be taken. While it cannot be viewed as a solution to all project issues, it does provide a means to manage a project in an efficient way.

Through a review of the Naval Construction Force project fundamentals, some basic elements of Earned Value Management already exist. By adapting the procedures identified, the full benefits of all three data elements and the analysis tools they provide would be realized. From the application of Earned Value Management to the sample projects, the future tracking of variances and performance indices by the Naval Construction Force is recommended. Furthermore, the use of the forecasting tools provided by earned value analysis can aid in projecting the project status at the end of a deployment.

The successful implementation of earned value management is dependent upon properly adhering to many fundamental steps. Although obstacles may present themselves during this process, they are not insurmountable and with the proper management focus, acceptance from all team members can be expected.

## **6.2 Recommended Research**

During the course of conducting this research the following issues were identified as recommended areas for future investigation:

- Follow the implementation of Earned Value Management through the full 14-month planning and deployment cycle of a Naval Mobile Construction Battalion. This will allow one to monitor its effectiveness at various stages and to gather additional data points for analysis.
- Software applications that integrate project management and accounting system data into an earned value management tool.
- Methods to validate the analysis metrics to detect if data manipulation has occurred in an effort to report higher progress than what was actually accomplished.

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## **APPENDIX A. Earned Value Management System Criteria**

### **Organization**

1. Define the authorized work elements for the program. A work breakdown structure (WBS), tailored for effective internal management control, is commonly used in this process.
2. Identify the program organizational structure including the major subcontractors responsible for accomplishing the authorized work, and define the organizational elements in which work will be planned and controlled.
3. Provide for the integration of the company's planning, scheduling, budgeting, work authorization and cost accumulation processes with each other, and as appropriate, the program work breakdown structure and the program organizational structure.
4. Identify the company organization or function responsible for controlling overhead (indirect costs).
5. Provide for integration of the program work breakdown structure and the program organizational structure in a manner that permits cost and schedule performance measurement by elements of either or both structures as needed.

### **Planning and Budgeting**

6. Schedule the authorized work in a manner that describes the sequence of work and identifies significant task interdependencies required to meet the requirements of the program.
7. Identify physical products, milestones, technical performance goals, or other indicators that will be used to measure progress.
8. Establish and maintain a time-phased budget baseline, at the control account level, against which program performance can be measured. Budget for far-term efforts may be held in higher-level accounts until an appropriate time for allocation at the control account level. Initial budgets established for performance measurement will be based on either internal management goals or the external customer negotiated target cost including estimates for authorized but undefinitized work. On government contracts, if an over target baseline is used for performance measurement reporting purposes, prior notification must be provided to the customer.
9. Establish budgets for authorized work with identification of significant cost elements (labor, material, etc.) as needed for internal management and for control of subcontractors.
10. To the extent it is practical to identify the authorized work in discrete work packages, establish budgets for this work in terms of dollars, hours, or other measurable units. Where the entire control account is not subdivided into work packages, identify the far term effort in larger planning packages for budget and scheduling purposes.
11. Provide that the sum of all work package budgets plus planning package budgets within a control account equals the control account budget.

12. Identify and control level of effort activity by time-phased budgets established for this purpose. Only that effort which is immeasurable or for which measurement is impractical may be classified as level of effort.
13. Establish overhead budgets for each significant organizational component of the company for expenses, which will become indirect costs. Reflect in the program budgets, at the appropriate level, the amounts in overhead pools that are planned to be allocated to the program as indirect costs.
14. Identify management reserves and undistributed budget.
15. Provide that the program target cost goal is reconciled with the sum of all internal program budgets and management reserves.

### **Accounting Considerations**

16. Record direct costs in a manner consistent with the budgets in a formal system controlled by the general books of account.
17. When a work breakdown structure is used, summarize direct costs from control accounts into the work breakdown structure without allocation of a single control account to two or more work breakdown structure elements.
18. Summarize direct costs from the control accounts into the contractor's organizational elements without allocation of a single control account to two or more organizational elements.
19. Record all indirect costs that will be allocated to the contract.
20. Identify unit costs, equivalent units costs, or lot costs when needed.
21. For EVMS, the material accounting system will provide for:
  - (1) Accurate cost accumulation and assignment of costs to control accounts in a manner consistent with the budgets using recognized, acceptable, costing techniques.
  - (2) Cost performance measurement at the point in time most suitable for the category of material involved, but no earlier than the time of progress payments or actual receipt of material.
  - (3) Full accountability of all material purchased for the program including the residual inventory.

### **Analysis and Management Reports**

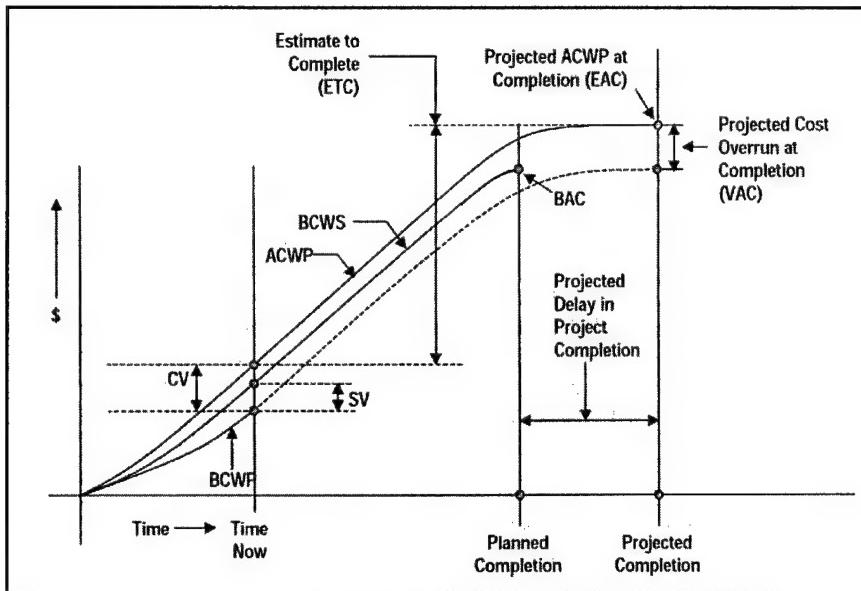
22. At least on a monthly basis, generate the following information at the control account and other levels as necessary for management control using actual cost data from, or reconcilable with, the accounting system:
  - (1) Comparison of the amount of planned budget and the amount of budget earned for work accomplished. This comparison provides the schedule variance.

- (2) Comparison of the amount of the budget earned the actual (applied where appropriate) direct costs for the same work. This comparison provides the cost variance.
23. Identify, at least monthly, the significant differences between both planned and actual schedule performance and planned and actual cost performance, and provide the reasons for the variances in the detail needed by program management.
  24. Identify budgeted and applied (or actual) indirect costs at the level and frequency needed by management for effective control, along with the reasons for any significant variances.
  25. Summarize the data elements and associated variances through the program organization and/or work breakdown structure to support management needs and any customer reporting specified in the contract.
  26. Implement managerial actions taken as the result of earned value information.
  27. Develop revised estimates of cost at completion based on performance to date, commitment values for material, and estimates of future conditions. Compare this information with the performance measurement baseline to identify variances at completion important to company management and any applicable customer reporting requirements including statements of funding requirements.

#### **Revisions and Data Maintenance**

28. Incorporate authorized changes in a timely manner, recording the effects of such changes in budgets and schedules. In the directed effort prior to negotiation of a change, base such revisions on the amount estimated and budgeted to the program organizations.
29. Reconcile current budgets to prior budgets in terms of changes to the authorized work and internal replanning in the detail needed by management for effective control.
30. Control retroactive changes to records pertaining to work performed that would change previously reported amounts for actual costs, earned value, or budgets. Adjustments should be made only for correction of errors, routine accounting adjustments, effects of customer or management directed changes, or to improve the baseline integrity and accuracy of performance measurement data.
31. Prevent revisions to the program budget except for authorized changes.
32. Document changes to the performance measurement baseline.

## APPENDIX B. Earned Value Quick Reference Sheet



### VARIANCES (*Favorable is positive, Unfavorable is negative*)

- Cost Variance
- Schedule Variance
- Variance at Completion

$$CV = BCWP - ACWP$$

$$SV = BCWP - BCWS$$

$$VAC = BAC - EAC$$

$$CV \% = CV / BCWP$$

$$SV \% = SV / BCWS$$

### PERFORMANCE INDICES

- Cost Efficiency
- Schedule Efficiency

(*Favorable is > 1.0, Unfavorable is < 1.0*)

$$CPI = BCWP / ACWP$$

$$SPI = BCWP / BCWS$$

### OVERALL STATUS

- Percent Complete
- Percent Spent

$$= \frac{BCWP_{CUM}}{BAC}$$

$$= \frac{ACWP_{CUM}}{BAC}$$

### TO COMPLETE PERFORMANCE INDEX (TCPI)

$$TCPI_{(EAC)} = \frac{\text{WORK REMAINING}}{\text{COST REMAINING}} = \frac{BAC - BCWP_{CUM}}{EAC - ACWP_{CUM}}$$

### ESTIMATE AT COMPLETION

(*EAC = ACWP + Estimate for Remaining Work*)

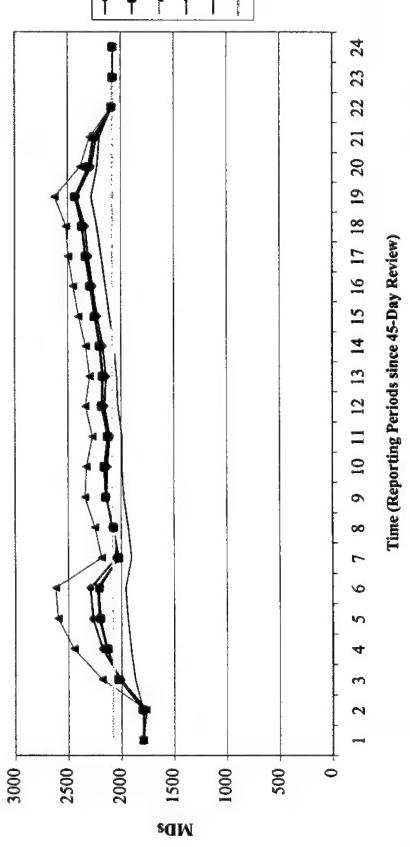
$$EAC_{CPI} = \frac{BAC}{CPI_{CUM}}$$

$$\bullet EAC_{SCI} = ACWP_{CUM} + \frac{BAC - BCWP_{CUM}}{(CPI_{CUM}) \cdot (SPI_{CUM})}$$

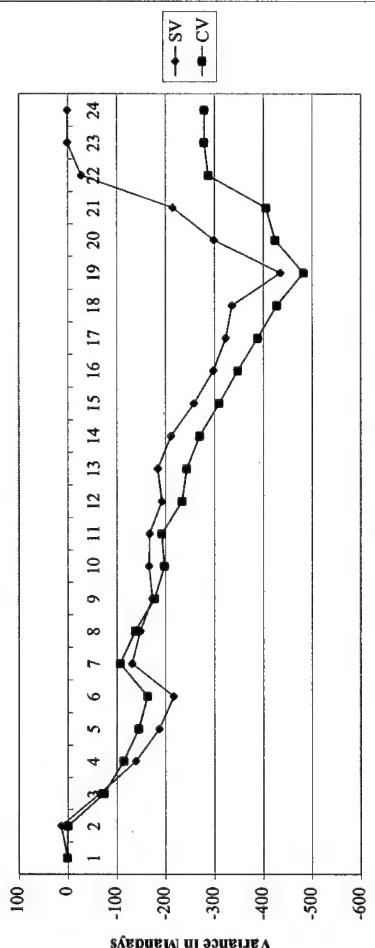
## **APPENDIX C. Results of Practical Application**

PSO-801 CONSTRUCT USO FACILITY

### Estimates at Completion



### Tracking the Cumulative SV and CV



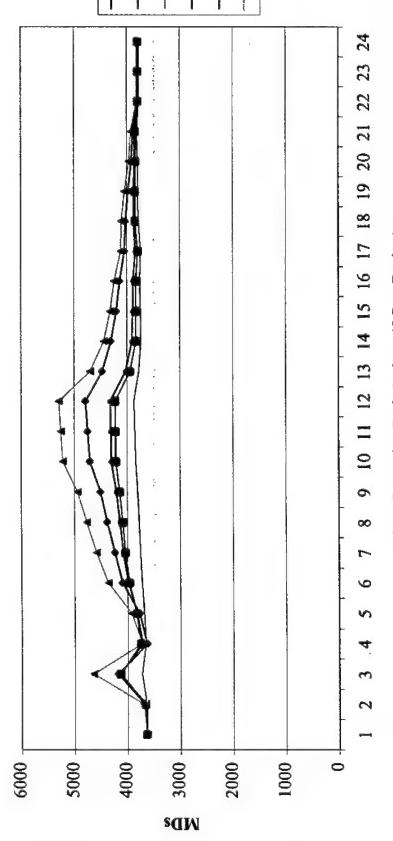
Time (Reporting Periods Since 45-Day Review)

USO FACILITY

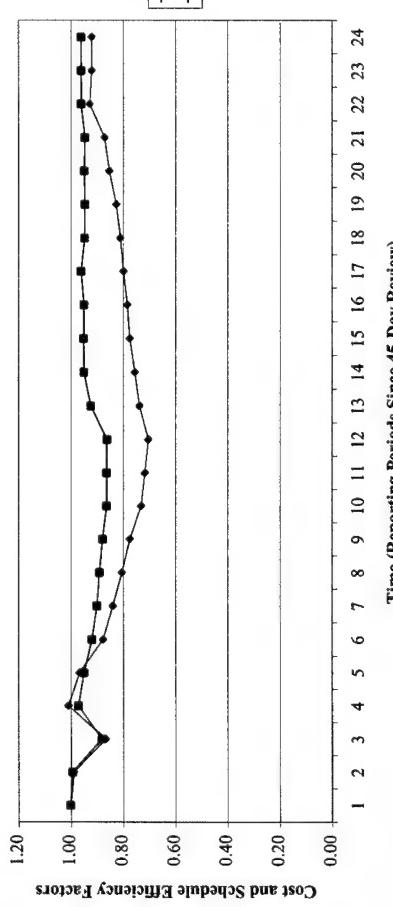
NV9-895 CATFISH #1 LEVEL II UPDATED: 28 APRIL 01

Project X: Multi-Year Financial Performance & Resource Allocation																													
Period	Category	Financials (USD)										Operational Metrics										Strategic Initiatives & Risk							
		Revenue	Profit	EBITDA	Cash Flow	Debt	Equity	EPS	ROE	ROI	Margin %	Completion %	Efficiency %	Quality %	Delivery %	Cost %	Time %	Team Size	Headcount	Budget %	Risk Score	Impact	Probability	Severity	Control	Impact Score	Probability Score	Severity Score	Overall Score
Q1-Q2	Financials	120M	30M	25M	15M	40M	35M	1.20	15%	10%	15%	90%	95%	98%	99%	98%	99%	1000	200	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Financials	150M	40M	30M	20M	50M	45M	1.50	18%	12%	16%	95%	98%	99%	99%	98%	99%	1000	250	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Financials	270M	70M	55M	35M	90M	80M	1.35	16%	11%	14%	92%	97%	98%	98%	97%	98%	1000	450	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Operations	100M	25M	20M	10M	30M	25M	1.00	12%	8%	10%	85%	90%	92%	93%	92%	93%	1000	150	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Operations	130M	35M	30M	15M	40M	35M	1.30	14%	10%	12%	90%	95%	96%	97%	96%	97%	1000	200	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Operations	230M	60M	50M	25M	70M	60M	1.25	13%	9%	11%	88%	93%	94%	95%	94%	95%	1000	350	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Human Resources	50M	15M	10M	5M	20M	15M	0.50	8%	5%	7%	75%	80%	82%	83%	82%	83%	1000	50	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Human Resources	60M	20M	15M	10M	25M	20M	0.60	9%	6%	8%	80%	85%	87%	88%	87%	88%	1000	60	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Human Resources	110M	35M	25M	15M	45M	35M	0.85	8.5%	5.5%	7.5%	78%	83%	85%	86%	85%	86%	1000	110	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	R&D	80M	20M	15M	10M	30M	25M	0.80	10%	7%	9%	82%	87%	88%	89%	88%	89%	1000	80	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	R&D	100M	25M	20M	15M	35M	30M	1.00	12%	9%	11%	85%	90%	91%	92%	91%	92%	1000	100	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	R&D	180M	45M	35M	25M	65M	55M	1.00	11%	8%	9%	83%	88%	89%	90%	89%	90%	1000	180	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Marketing	40M	10M	8M	5M	15M	12M	0.40	6%	4%	6%	70%	75%	77%	78%	77%	78%	1000	40	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Marketing	50M	15M	12M	8M	20M	18M	0.50	7%	5%	7%	75%	80%	82%	83%	82%	83%	1000	50	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Marketing	90M	25M	20M	13M	35M	30M	0.70	7.0%	5.0%	6.0%	73%	78%	80%	81%	80%	81%	1000	90	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Customer Support	30M	10M	8M	5M	10M	8M	0.30	5%	3%	5%	65%	70%	72%	73%	72%	73%	1000	30	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Customer Support	40M	15M	12M	8M	15M	12M	0.40	6%	4%	6%	70%	75%	77%	78%	77%	78%	1000	40	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Customer Support	70M	25M	20M	13M	35M	30M	0.50	6.0%	4.0%	5.0%	71%	76%	78%	79%	78%	79%	1000	70	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Logistics	20M	5M	4M	3M	8M	6M	0.20	3%	2%	3%	55%	60%	62%	63%	62%	63%	1000	20	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Logistics	30M	10M	8M	6M	12M	10M	0.30	5%	3%	5%	65%	70%	72%	73%	72%	73%	1000	30	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Logistics	50M	15M	12M	9M	25M	20M	0.40	6.0%	4.0%	5.0%	66%	71%	73%	74%	73%	74%	1000	50	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Procurement	10M	3M	2M	1M	5M	4M	0.10	2%	1%	2%	45%	50%	52%	53%	52%	53%	1000	10	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Procurement	15M	5M	4M	3M	8M	6M	0.15	3%	2%	3%	50%	55%	57%	58%	57%	58%	1000	15	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Procurement	25M	8M	7M	4M	18M	12M	0.20	4.0%	3.0%	4.0%	51%	56%	58%	59%	58%	59%	1000	25	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Manufacturing	150M	40M	35M	25M	70M	60M	1.50	18%	12%	16%	90%	95%	96%	97%	96%	97%	1000	150	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Manufacturing	180M	50M	45M	30M	80M	70M	1.80	20%	14%	18%	95%	100%	101%	102%	101%	102%	1000	180	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Manufacturing	330M	90M	80M	55M	150M	130M	1.65	17%	11%	14%	92%	97%	98%	99%	98%	99%	1000	330	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Research & Development	50M	15M	10M	5M	20M	15M	0.50	8%	5%	7%	75%	80%	82%	83%	82%	83%	1000	50	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Research & Development	60M	20M	15M	10M	25M	20M	0.60	9%	6%	8%	80%	85%	87%	88%	87%	88%	1000	60	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Research & Development	110M	35M	25M	15M	55M	45M	0.85	8.5%	5.5%	6.5%	83%	88%	89%	90%	89%	90%	1000	110	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Customer Experience	30M	10M	8M	5M	15M	12M	0.30	5%	3%	5%	65%	70%	72%	73%	72%	73%	1000	30	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Customer Experience	40M	15M	12M	8M	20M	18M	0.40	6%	4%	6%	70%	75%	77%	78%	77%	78%	1000	40	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Customer Experience	70M	25M	20M	13M	55M	45M	0.50	6.0%	4.0%	5.0%	71%	76%	78%	79%	78%	79%	1000	70	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Logistics & Supply Chain	20M	5M	4M	3M	8M	6M	0.20	3%	2%	3%	55%	60%	62%	63%	62%	63%	1000	20	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Logistics & Supply Chain	30M	10M	8M	6M	12M	10M	0.30	5%	4%	6%	65%	70%	72%	73%	72%	73%	1000	30	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Logistics & Supply Chain	50M	15M	12M	9M	45M	35M	0.40	6.0%	4.0%	5.0%	66%	71%	73%	74%	73%	74%	1000	50	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Product Development	80M	20M	15M	10M	30M	25M	0.80	10%	7%	9%	82%	87%	88%	89%	88%	89%	1000	80	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Product Development	100M	25M	20M	15M	35M	30M	1.00	12%	9%	11%	85%	90%	91%	92%	91%	92%	1000	100	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Product Development	200M	45M	35M	25M	65M	55M	1.00	11%	8%	10%	83%	88%	89%	90%	89%	90%	1000	200	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Market Expansion	50M	15M	10M	5M	20M	15M	0.50	8%	5%	7%	75%	80%	82%	83%	82%	83%	1000	50	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Market Expansion	60M	20M	15M	10M	25M	20M	0.60	9%	6%	8%	70%	75%	77%	78%	77%	78%	1000	60	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Market Expansion	110M	35M	25M	15M	55M	45M	0.70	7.0%	5.0%	6.0%	71%	76%	78%	79%	78%	79%	1000	110	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Strategic Initiatives	100M	25M	20M	15M	35M	30M	1.00	12%	9%	11%	85%	90%	91%	92%	91%	92%	1000	100	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Strategic Initiatives	120M	30M	25M	20M	38M	33M	1.20	14%	11%	13%	88%	93%	94%	95%	94%	95%	1000	120	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Strategic Initiatives	220M	50M	40M	30M	73M	63M	1.20	13%	10%	12%	86%	91%	92%	93%	92%	93%	1000	220	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q1-Q2	Risk Management	30M	10M	8M	5M	15M	12M	0.30	5%	3%	5%	65%	70%	72%	73%	72%	73%	1000	30	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
Q3-Q4	Risk Management	40M	15M	12M	8M	20M	18M	0.40	6%	4%	6%	70%	75%	77%	78%	77%	78%	1000	40	10%	100	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	
YTD Total	Risk Management	70M	25M	20M	13M	55M	45M	0.50	6.0%	4.0%	5.0%	66%	71%	73%	74%	73%	74%	1000											

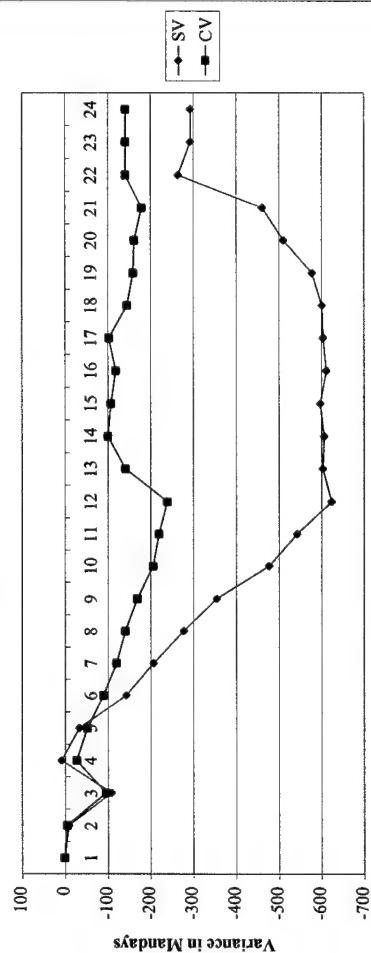
### Estimates at Completion



### Tracking the Cumulative SPI and CPI

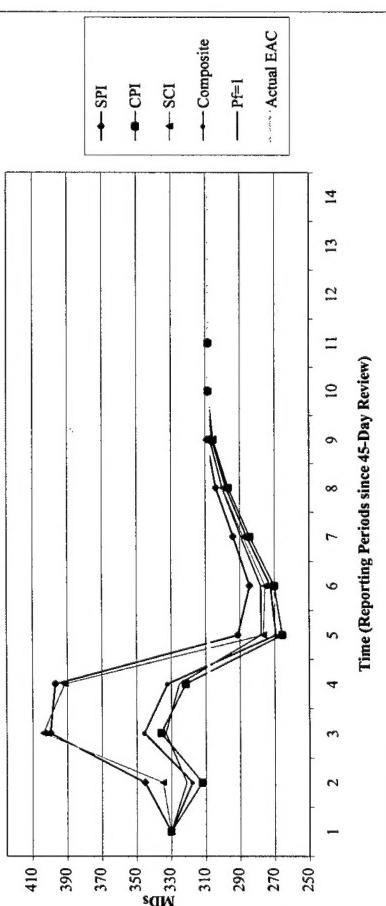


### Tracking the Cumulative SV and CV

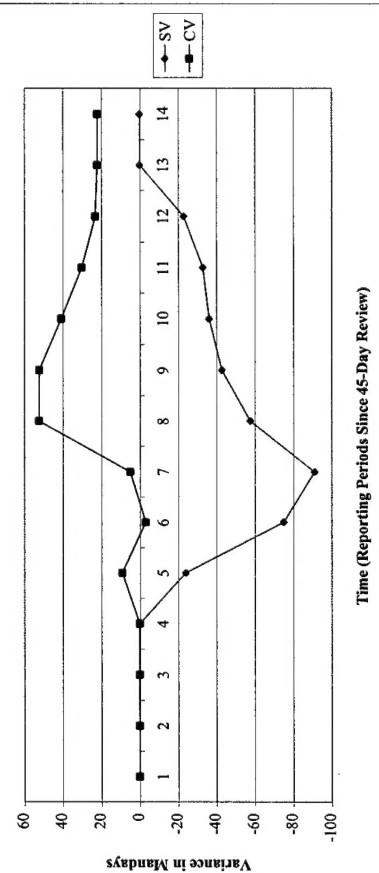




**Estimates at Completion**



**Tracking the Cumulative SV and CV**



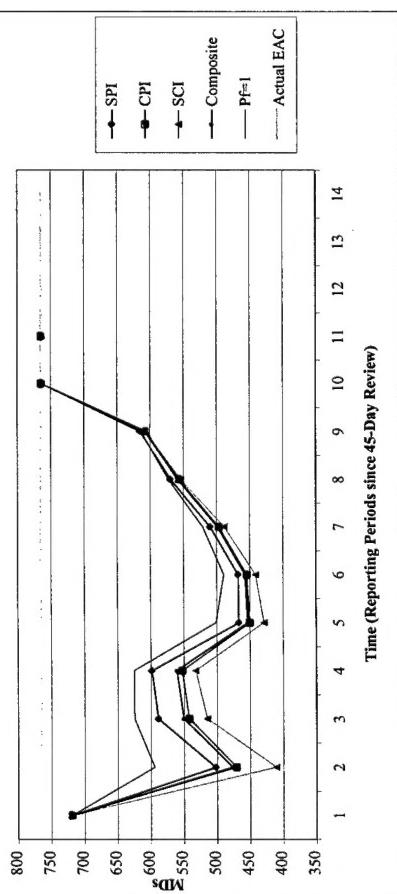
NMCB FOUR - NMCB FOUR Main Body

Monday Equivalent (ME) =

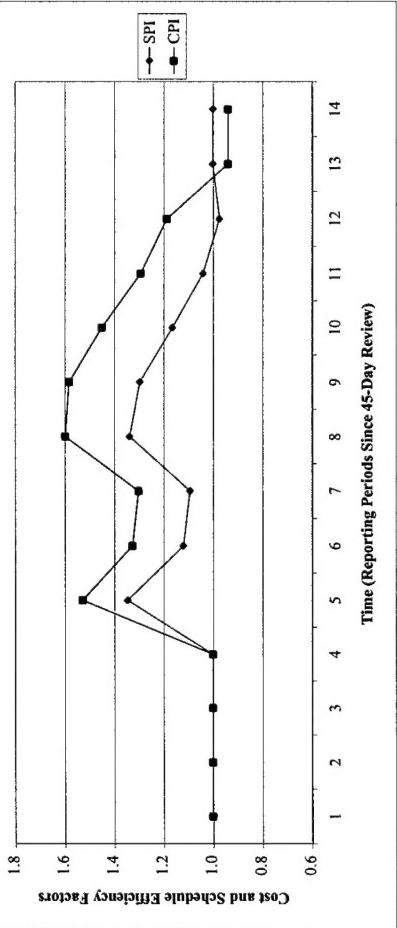
### Availability Factor (AE) =

075

Estimates at Completion



Tracking the Cumulative SPI and CPI



Tracking the Cumulative SV and CV

